Hafa Adai!

Sasamoto is new speaker of Youth Congress. PAGE 2

OAG opposes parole for convicted murderer, molester. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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PPP among options being explored for Saipan airport

File photo shows the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. KIMBERLY ESMORES

The future of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is at the forefront of conversations within the Commonwealth Ports Authority as the CNMI looks to the future of infrastructure following the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the "once-in-a-generation opportunity" made available through the national infrastructure development programs that have been created following the response efforts to the pandemic, the CPA seeks to engage the community on its plans for modernizing and upgrading the Saipan airport, according to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds.

See PPP on Page 4

Tydingco found guilty anew of harboring minor alien

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The third jury trial for a woman who was previously found guilty of harboring a minor alien has ended with a jury unanimously finding her guilty.

Last Friday, a 12-member jury unanimously found Lili Zhang Tydingco guilty—again—of one count of harboring an illegal alien after

See TYDINGCO on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

UNITED AIRLINES' DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM JAPAN

'A great step toward revitalizing economy'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The anticipated resumption of United Airlines' direct flights from Japan to Saipan this September is another great step in revitalizing the CNM's economy, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Torres

"We have had a good and longstanding relationship with Japan," said Torres in his revised proposed budget for the Commonwealth government and related agencies for fiscal year 2023.

The governor said CNMI now has the opportunity to rebuild the Commonwealth as a choice destination for Japanese visitors, while at the same time developing the CNMI's other markets.

United Airlines will provide direct flights between Saipan and Narita, Japan for six months starting this September to accommodate the CNMI's recently established Travel Investment Resump-

See ECONOMY on Page 4

Abe's killing haunts Japan with questions on handmade guns

By YURI KAGEYAMA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—The shooting sent shudders through low-crime, orderly Japan: A high-profile politician gets killed by a man emerging from a crowd, wielding a handmade

See GUNS on Page 4

Suspect Tetsuya Yamagami holds a weapon, as he is detained near the site of gunshots in Nara, western Japan, Friday, July 8, 2022. AP

INSIDE

NATION
Firefighters battle a blaze that threatens a large grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park.

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ASIA
Security lapses eyed in the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

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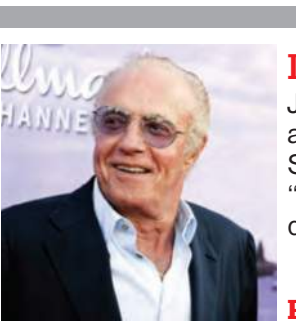

LIFE & STYLE
James Caan, known as the hotheaded Sonny Corleone of "The Godfather" has died. He was 82.

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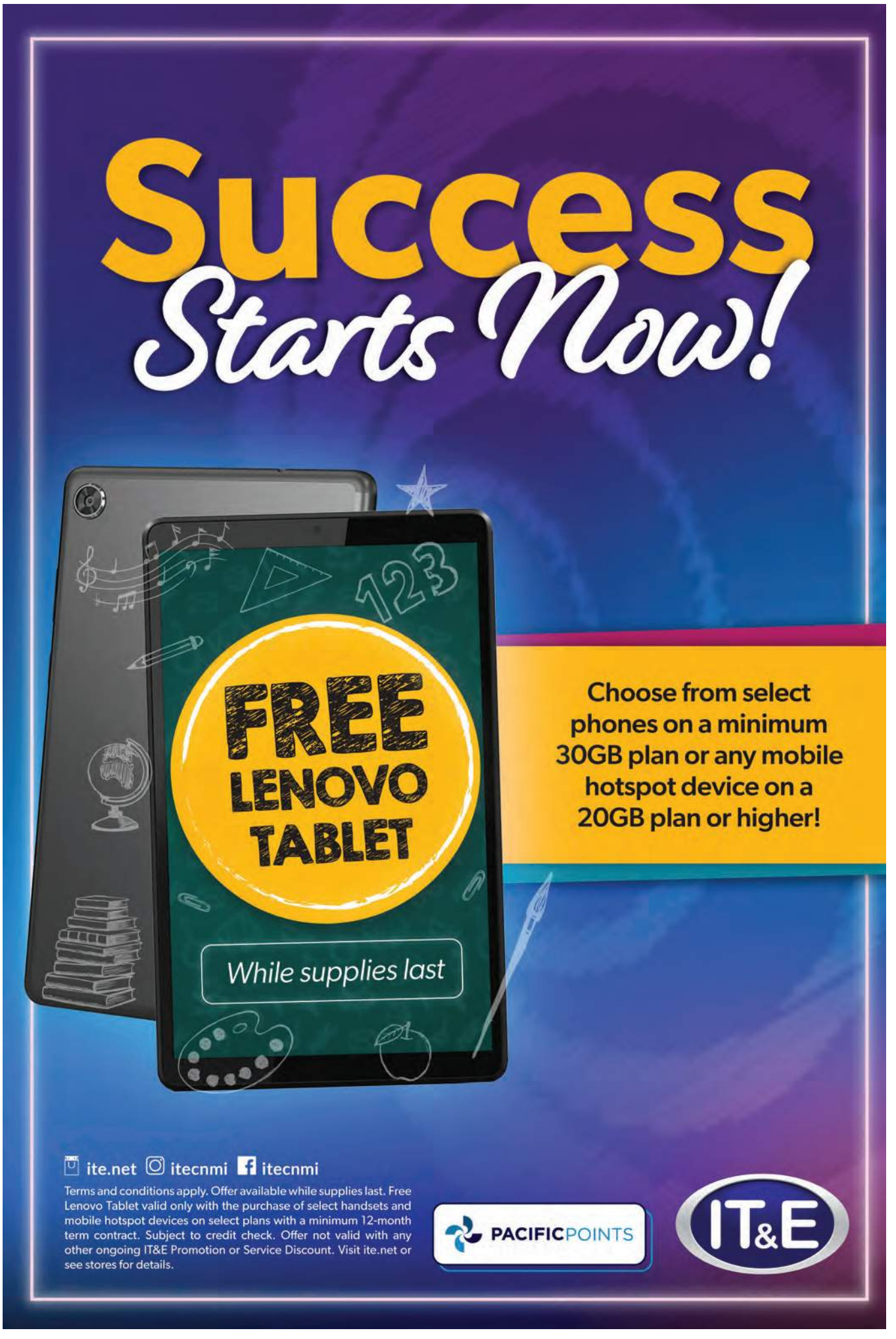
SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Former 18th Youth Congress Speaker Cielo Citalli Gutierrez Long receives a Senate joint resolution that both legislative chambers have adopted to recognize her accomplishments, during a recess of the Youth Congress special session in the House of Representatives chamber Friday. Long also received a scholarship check from the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for being the salutatorian of the Tinian High School Class 2022. To Long's left is the new Youth Congress Speaker YuriHana Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto. Also in the photo are Long's father, a family member, and members of the Legislature and Youth Congress. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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PACIFICPOINTS
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Local

YuriHana Sasamoto is new speaker of Youth Congress

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

YuriHana Deleon Guerrero Sasamoto of Mount Carmel School was elected as the new speaker of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress during a special session in the House of Representatives chamber last Friday.

In the reorganization of leadership, Youth Sen. Easton Joel Cabrera Dela Cruz of Marianas High School nominated Sasamoto as the new speaker. No other nominations were offered.

» Legislature presented former Youth speaker Cielo Long with Senate joint resolution

In her acceptance speech, Sasamoto said she is honored to be given this opportunity to be the new speaker of the 18th Youth Congress and thanked her colleagues for entrusting her "with this great privilege and responsibility."

"Thank you, former speaker [Cielo Citalli Gutierrez] Long for passing the torch to me. I know I have some very big shoes to fill," said Sasamoto as she promised to do her utmost to carry on the remainder of her term.

She told her Youth Congress colleagues that she's excited for what's to come for the Youth Congress and for the youth of the CNMI, especially as they prepare for the new school year this fall.

Before the reorganization of leadership, then-speaker Long presided over the session Friday, her last day of office with the Youth Congress.

Saipan Tribune learned that Long left yesterday to attend Harvard University.

During the session's recess, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) presented Long with a Senate joint resolution that both legislative chambers had adopted.

Hofschneider said the resolution essentially recognizes Long's accomplishments, as not only an active and influential student in the CNMI, especially on Tinian, but also being the speaker of the Youth Congress and being the salutatorian of the 2022 Tinian High School graduating class.

"On behalf of the members of the Legislature, both houses, the people of the CNMI and especially the people of Tinian, we wish to present this to you, to honor you and to also bid you the best in your future endeavors," said Hofschneider in presenting Long with the resolution.

Villagomez thanked Long for her service to the people of the CNMI and to Tinian.

"It's really a big honor at any level when it comes to serving the public. And I just want to congratulate you as well as your dad and mom for raising someone with the right attitude and personality not only to tackle the issues here in the Youth Congress, but it seems, you know, you're ready to tackle the future," Villagomez said.

Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) extended the delegation's gratitude and appreciation to Long for the public services that she has done.

Cruz also presented a $2,500 check to Long on behalf of the Tinian leadership as a recipient of the honor scholarship for the Tinian High School.

Long was the school's salutatorian. Her twin sister, Isa Ha'ani Gutierrez Long, was also given a $5,000 scholarship for being valedictorian of the same class of Tinian High School.

Cielo Long said she has had the privilege of serving in two terms in the Youth Congress for for a total of four years.

"I've seen the progression of the organization. I've seen the Legislature continuously wanting to chime in and… advocating for the youth," she said. Long said the organization, which she described as "amazing," helped her grow in so many ways. She also credited her colleagues for playing pivotal roles in accomplishing things during her term.

Vice Speaker LieKeila'akata Tapua'ialupe Iakopo of Kagman High School resigned effective June 15, 2022. Iakopo notified last month Long that she was a member of this year's graduating class at KHS, and, because of that, along with educational and career opportunities she intends to pursue, she has decided to forfeit the remainder of her term.

"During this past year, not only have I learned so much of what a lawmaker does, but I have also made a great bunch of friendships that I will forever cherish," Iakopo said.

Youth Sen. Abriette Patience Taimanao Manglona, of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior-Senior High School, is the other remaining member of the Youth Congress.

OAG opposes parole for convicted murderer, molester

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General's criminal division is strongly opposing early release for two inmates: one who's convicted of murder in the first degree and the other convicted of sexual assault in the second degree.

Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds issued two separate memorandums last Thursday to the CNMI Board of Parole opposing the parole applications of Edward Iglecias Blas and Edward Tudela Sublan, two men who are currently serving separate sentences for murder and sexual assault, respectively.

The two men are right now waiting for the Board of Parole's decision on their respective applications.

According to the memorandum in opposition of early release for Blas, Hinds said the OAG maintains its position strongly opposing a grant of parole to inmate Blas despite his eligibility for parole after serving one-third of his sentence. Blas was sentenced to a 24-year imprisonment and has served over eight years.

"The Commonwealth expresses continued concern over granting the inmate's eligibility for parole given the nature of the offense that the inmate has been charged with, and for the pattern of behavior exhibited by the inmate, which could possibly result in more future criminal acts. We respectfully request that his application be denied," he said.

Hinds pointed out that Blas, before pleading guilty to murder in the first degree, which he committed during a burglary and/or robbery, already had an extremely long criminal history as a juvenile.

"Nothing seemed to work. We believe that the inmate is not suitable for parole. These types of crimes, along with the inmate's criminal history, should be a strong aggravating factor during the parole decision. Therefore, the Commonwealth expresses its continued concern in granting inmate Blas any form of early release," he said.

In the murder case, Blas took a piece of metal rebar and repeatedly hit the head of a school security guard, just so he could steal property at the school and go buy marijuana.

"There is simply nothing mitigating about this heinous crime for brutally beating a sleeping man to death. Applicant made a deliberate decision to commit such a cruel attack on a defenseless person just for a few dollars to buy drugs," he said.

Aside from committing the cruel attack, the chief prosecutor noted that Blas also minimized his role in this crime in his application for parole.

The inmate, in his version of the story, stated that both his co-defendants went to pay him a visit to smoke marijuana. However, as they were running out of marijuana, the group thought of a way to make money to buy more marijuana, which in turn, led them to plan to knock out the security guard and rob the school.

"They didn't just knock out the security guard as planned; they brutally beat the defenseless sleeping guard, resulting in his death. According to the confessions of the inmate's co-defendants, after they stopped hitting the deceased victim, [Blas] continued to hit the deceased victim about ten more times so his co-defendants began telling him to stop, and [Blas'] response was that he 'wanted to make sure that the deceased victim was knocked out,'" said Hinds.

Meanwhile, in the memorandum against parole for Sablan, Hinds said the OAG opposes a finding of suitability and grant of parole to Sablan because his sentence was already lenient to begin with, considering that his crime was sexual assault in the second degree, which carried a maximum sentence of 15 years.

"The defendant [pleaded] guilty to the offense of sexual assault in the second degree, and was sentenced to serve five years, all suspended except for two years and shall be released on Feb. 26, 2023. We believe the inmate is not suitable for parole. The crime committed itself carries a maximum sentence of 15 years. The defendant was already given a lenient sentence; therefore, we must highly consider the protection of the people, most especially his victim and her rights. With only nine months remaining for incarceration, we must all be reminded of the unbearable long-term effects that this traumatic ordeal has placed on his victim. The victim will carry this experience over her lifetime for the rest of her life," he said.

Hinds said Sablan serving his full maximum possible sentence as penalty for such an invasive crime is in the best interest of the victim and her family, the community, and for the Commonwealth.

"Granting the inmate early release does not apply equal justice. This raises a concern, given the nature of the type of

See OAG on Page 4

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CEC starts accepting filing of candidacies today

» Ignacio Cabrera is expected to be the early bird

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CEC executive director Kayla Igitol told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Ignacio Cabrera is the first individual who is scheduled to file his candidacy today.

Cabrera is running for a seat in the House of Representatives for Precinct 5 as an independent.

Igitol

Igitol said that Cabrera had informed CEC that he will be in today at 8am.

Cabrera is chairman of the Friends of the Monument.

The CEC earlier disclosed that Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang were the first to reserve a date for filing their candidacies but Igitol said the two are not scheduled to file their candidacies tomorrow. Palacios is running for governor with Apatang as his running mate as independent bets.

Aug. 10 is the last day to file candidacies and submit nominating petitions.

Today is also the last day to establish residency requirements.

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.7-magnitude quake occurred in Marianas region

At 10:43pm on July 9 2022, a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.852°N 147.050°E in the Mariana Islands region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-664-8000. ***(PR)***

5.0-magnitudequake in Marianas region

At 3:10am on July 9, 2022, a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.806°N 147.137°E in the Mariana Islands region. There are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. ***(PR)***

4.5-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 1:05pm on July 8, 2022, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.627°N 145.685°E in the Pagan region, Northern Mariana Islands. There are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. ***(PR)***

CISN monitoring quakes in Marianas region

As of 11am Saturday morning , the California Integrated Seismic Network continues to alert seismic activity of 4.7 magnitude and lower occurring in the Marianas region. These are aftershocks subsequent to the 6.3 earthquake that happened at 9:36am in Pagan. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center continues to issue a "no tsunami threat" for the CNMI. The CNMI State Warning Point will continue monitoring these seismic activities. ***(PR)***

GUNS

From Page 1

firearm so roughly made it's wrapped up in tape.

The 40-centimeter-long (16-inch) firearm that was used to kill former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday as he campaigned for his ruling party in Nara, western Japan, looked crude, more like a propellant made of pipes taped together and filled with explosives.

RELATED NEWS
Abe's death raises security questions as Japan mourns.
PAGE 13

A raid of the suspect's home, a one-room apartment in Nara, turned up several such guns, police said. Unlike standard weapons, handmade guns are practically impossible to trace, making an investigation difficult.

Such weapons are rarely used in Japan, where most attacks involve stabbings or dousing a place with gasoline and setting it ablaze, or running haywire on the street in a vehicle.

Strict gun control laws likely made the suspect choose a handcrafted weapon. Tetsuya Yamagami, who was arrested on the spot, was a former member of Japan's navy, and knew how to handle and assemble weapons.

Crime experts say instructions on how to make guns are floating around on the internet, and guns can be made with a 3D printer.

Some analysts characterized the attack on Abe as "lone-wolf terrorism." In such cases, the perpetrator acts alone, often in sympathy with certain political views, making the crime very difficult to detect in advance.

The motive for Abe's assassination remains unclear. Japanese media reported that the suspect had developed hatred toward a religious group that his mother was obsessed about and that caused his family financial problems. The reports did not specify the group.

Japan has seen attacks on politicians in the past. In 1960, Abe's grandfather, then-Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, was stabbed but survived. In 1975, when then-Prime Minister Takeo Miki was assaulted at the funeral for former Prime Minister Eisaku Sato, Abe's great-uncle, Japan set up a security team modeled after the American Secret Service.

Hideto Ted Osanai, chief executive at the International Bodyguard Association in Japan, and other experts believe that the Japanese may have merely learned superficial things like escort formation rather than the prevention mindset critical to security.

"Japanese are so used to leading peaceful lives, the security guards were caught asleep," says Yasuhiro Sasaki, president of Safety-Pro, a Tokyo-based security company.

PPP

From Page 1

In seeking the necessary growth and development of the Marianas' most-used airport, King-Hinds and the CPA board believe that "all options should be on the table," including options for pursuing the expansion of the airport through a Public-Private Partnership.

"Regarding the development and enhancements of airport facilities, Public-Private Partnerships have aided communities across the United States by improving infrastructure and seeking greater gains through increased access to the world," said King-Hinds. "For revenue-generating public facilities like airports, building partnerships combine public and private resources to more adequately meet the needs of the economy and the public."

"The honest fact is that the Saipan International Airport needs more than repairs—it requires a complete overhaul to keep pace with changing regulations, safety and security needs, and the changing needs of our community and our economy," King-Hinds added.

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, as it is seen today, owes its creation to public-private partnerships. Today's terminal facilities were built following the decision of the Marianas District Legislature to invite private firms to bid for the right to an exclusive 15-year contract for duty-free concessions. Duty Free Shoppers, Ltd. won the bid and, along with it, the partnership to construct the airport, which officially opened on July 25, 1976.

"We can learn from our past and from the decades of cases of Public-Private Partnerships of airports throughout the world to craft a path forward that sees our facilities keep pace with the modern world," said King-Hinds.

According to her, "the challenge of developing modern infrastructure fit for the CNMI economy requires a collaborative approach that leverages both federal resources and the private market to accomplish."

Going forward, CPA intends to establish a process that examines all possible options for the development of the airport and puts at its core transparency and continual dialogue with the community. CPA is also looking at the establishment of a review committee composed of community members and stakeholders and the crafting of a process for ongoing public engagement as the plans develop and progress.

For King-Hinds, the process is the most important part of any action toward the development of the Saipan airport. "The community has to be involved. It is their airport, and this airport is one of the most critical pieces of infrastructure in the Commonwealth. That is why the community must be involved, educated, and made a part of the process toward defining the future for the Saipan International Airport and our islands," she said. ***(CPA)***

ERRATUM

In last Friday's *Saipan Tribune*'s issue, Janet U. Maratita was erroneously quoted as running for a Saipan Senate seat under the NMI Democratic Party in the Nov. 8 general election. This is incorrect. Maratita is running under the Republican Party. The error was immediately corrected that same day on *Saipan Tribune*'s website. Our sincere apologies for the error.

ECONOMY

From Page 1

tion Plan Japan program.

Torres said that, while the administration continues to work with partners at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force to manage COVID-19 cases on the islands, the Commonwealth embraces the benefits that have been utilized since the development of the Travel Bubble Program, which established the CNMI as a safe destination for tourists.

The governor said they also look forward to the upcoming launch of interisland airline Marianas Southern Airways, which will not only provide residents with more options to travel but also increase the importing and exporting of goods within the CNMI.

Marianas Southern Airways is the CNMI's newest interisland air service provider. The airline will announce its initial schedule, launch its website, and open ticket sales in the next few weeks.

Torres said the administration's priorities on infrastructure development, destination enhancement, the diversification of the economy, natural disaster preparation and recovery, the mitigation of the ongoing global pandemic, and the improvements to core governmental services remain critical in their plans for the upcoming fiscal year.

TYDINGCO

From Page 1

a trial at the U.S. District Court for the NMI

Tydingco was found guilty twice for the same crime she was found guilty back in June 2016, then again on September 2019.

After the verdict was read, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered Tydingco to return to court for her sentencing on Nov. 18, at 9am.

Without objections, Tydingco was allowed to remain released as long as she abides by the court's previously imposed terms and conditions.

In a brief comment from Tydingco's lawyer Bruce Berline, he said he intends to appeal and continue to fight the charges.

"This is our third try and the jurors found Ms. Tydingco guilty and we will certainly appeal. We believe there is basis to appeal and we'll keep fighting. The main issue is that there were a couple of witnesses who were called that didn't have any knowledge or personal recollection of the events that they were testifying to and that would probably one of the main issues of the appeal," he said.

In June 2016, a federal court jury found Lili Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an illegal alien and found her husband, Francisco Tydingco, guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring for concealing a child who entered the CNMI and remained here in violation of the law.

In December 2016, Lili Tydingco was sentenced to 10 months in prison, while Francisco Tydingco was sentenced to a 21-month imprisonment term. Both were given credit for time served. The Tydingcos appealed.

Then, in 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed their convictions and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial. The U.S. government subsequently dropped the case against Francisco Tydingco on May 10, 2019. However, the U.S. government refiled a superseding indictment against Lili Tydingco, again charging her with harboring an illegal minor alien. In September 2019, following two and a half hours of deliberation, jurors found Lili Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring a minor alien.

On June 17, 2020, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 90 days' imprisonment for harboring a minor alien.

The defendant appealed to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals again.

Then on February 2022, the Ninth Circuit, yet again, reversed her conviction and remanded the case back to the district court.

OAG

From Page 3

crime that the inmate has committed. The Commonwealth vigorously requests for the board's favorable disposition in denying the inmate's application for parole at this time, and further requests that the board consider the Commonwealth's request for the inmate to serve the entire maximum remaining sentence. As a reminder, the law was passed by the people to send a strong message to offenders. Offenders of sexual assault are therefore sentenced to go to jail for a very long period of time. Serving his sentence shorter than the two years he was sentenced to will definitely not represent a very long period of time, nor does it serve the ends of justice," the chief prosecutor said.

Thank You!

TO ALL SPONSORS, VIP'S, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS 76TH LIBERATION DAY A SUCCESS!

2022 VIP'S

John A. Manglona, Associate Justice
Ramona Manglona, Chief Judge for the NMI US District Court
Ralph DLG Torres, Governor
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Don Farrell, 2021 Grand Marshal
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Zolenska Yaroitemal, 2015 Liberation Day Queen
Christine Roque, 2016 Liberation Day Queen
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Joeten Daidai Foundation awards $12K in scholarships

The philanthropic arm of Joeten Enterprises, Joeten Daidai Foundation, awarded last Thursday a total of $12,000 in scholarships to six recipients to help start them off on their college journey.

Each of the six recipients were awarded $2,000 each during a scholarship check presentation at the second-floor conference room of Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe last June 30, 2022.

The awardees were Jin Kim F. Abogado of Saipan Southern High School, Yuting Chen of Marianas High School, Easton C. Delacruz of Marianas High School, Vivien Liu of Marianas High School, Journey T. Mafnas of Saipan Southern High School, and Vladmir Palma of Marianas High School.

The Joeten Daidai Foundation awards a total of $12,000 in scholarships to six recipients during a scholarship check presentation at the second-floor conference room of Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe last June 30, 2022. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Along with meeting qualifying academic achievements, the newly graduated students were required to submit applications and supporting documents as well as write an essay based on a quote from Henry David Thoreau, "It's not what you look at that matters; it's what you see."

"I wanted to stimulate the students' minds, get their brains working with this quote," said Foundation director Patty T. Palacios. "Not everything in plain sight is black and white. There's a story to be told. I needed the students to take us on a journey through their eyes, see it from their perspective. And they did quite well in captivating their readers in each essay."

After congratulating each scholarship winner on their merits, Palacios added, "I'd also like to take this time to thank the affiliates of Joeten Enterprises, such as Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Saipan Shipping Company, and Saipan Stevedore for their unending support and generosity over the years. Our donations wouldn't be possible without them and the many business partners of Joeten over the years." ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

07/07/2022

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after July 22, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Department of Public Works Route 205 and 206 Road and Drainage	Road and Drainage Improvement Project	Route 205 and Route 206, Tinian	Approximately $2,480,520.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the NMHC central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by July 22, 2022, 4:30 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Water service outage in portions of Finasisu tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on July 12, 2022, from 9am to 4pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the Finasisu village: Joeten Subdivision, portions of Tun Antonio Apa Road, Husk Lane, Aschi Place, portions of Heggao Place, portions of Pengka Place, Tun Joaquin Doi Road and Ghoot Lane down to Bayak Drive. Customers should expect low water pressure to no water during the outage period.

This will allow CUC's contractor for the Finasisu Waterline Replacement Project to perform the water meter relocation and reconnection to the new service lateral connected to the new 8-inch PVC and 6-inch PVC main waterline for the areas of Heggao Place, Husk Place and Tun Antonio Apa Road in Finasisu. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

The transition work is part of the decommissioning of the old waterline to eliminate risks of contamination and frequent line breaks.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

AHEC summer camp ends

Twenty-three junior high school students gained hands-on experience in CPR/first-aid training, mental health awareness, nutrition and health at the Northern Marianas College – Area Health Education Center's Healthcare Summer Camp.

NMC

Twenty-three CNMI junior high school students were given the opportunity to attend a two-week summer camp focused on the introduction of the healthcare industry and its many career paths in the CNMI.

Organized by the Area Health Education Center at the Northern Marianas College, students gained hands-on experience in CPR/first-aid training, mental health awareness, nutrition and health, and were introduced to high-demand medical career pathways, such as nursing, anesthesiologist, registered dietician nutritionist, dental hygienist, respiratory care therapist, radiologic technicians, phlebotomist, hemodialysis technician, physical therapist, medical lab and pharmacy technicians, mental health counselors and emergency medical technicians, to name a few. Activities and presentations were designed to expand student interest and knowledge of these professions.

"Research shows that reaching students in middle school and early high school creates a commanding learning experience that can be a life changer," said Les Ogumoro-Uludong, program manager for NMC-AHEC. "With the growing demand for certified employees within the healthcare industry, we look to build a connection with our youth as early as junior high so they are aware of the career paths available to them at NMC."

Through the support of community partners, including 4H Marianas, Commonwealth Health Corp, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Community Guidance Center-Systems of Care, Seventh Day Adventist, 500 Sails, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Eucon Medical Health Services, Marianas Health Services, and many others, the teen participants met professionals in an array of healthcare careers, learned the responsibilities of the job and the skills and educational qualifications required for the profession.

To conclude the camp, the students grouped together based on their healthcare career choice, researched further and presented their findings to their peers.

"It was our goal for this group of students to leave with an aspiring interest in a healthcare occupation, and, with the help of our community partners, we met that goal," said Ogumoro-Uludong.

For more information, contact Ogumoro-Uludong at (670) 237-6810 or email les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Water service interruptions set

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on July 13, 2022, from 8:30am to 12pm in the areas of As Terlaje, south Garapan (from the Horiguchi Building to the New Bank of Saipan), portions of Gualo Rai on Middle Road, Chalan Laulau Middle Road and Beach Road.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. water operations personnel to repair a 2-inch service lateral leak located by the entrance of Lila Place on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Chalan Kiya. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on *Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 8am* on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/17/2022)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Senate Confirmation & Swearing-In of Ted Parker and Dr. Tiffany Willis as Member Boards
  B. Nomination of Dr. Angela Sabino to the Board Representing Dental
  C. DEA Memorandum of Agreement for P. B.
  D. PA DEA certificates
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report for 2nd Quarter
  B. Practice Quarterly Report for Dr. NK
  C. Status Update on the Physician Regulation
  D. Request to Purchase New Vehicle for Office Use
  E. HCPLB New Website http://www.cnmilicensing.com
    Office email Address: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
  F. Continuing Dental Education Courses in Saipan
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public landis described as Lot No. 126 D 01 containing an area of approximately 4,449 square meters, more or less, situated in Navy Hill, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Creative Capital Corporation The lists of officers for Creative Capital Corporation are Angelina L. Villagomez President, Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer MA Rosario De La Torre.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Ms. Angelina L. Villagomez.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of Childhood Education and Care Center.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 40 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the JoetenDandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in ***Navy Hill, Saipan***.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, July 15, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattidå intirisao gi halum hinirårt pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Komu mapribeni mås mo'na ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 126 D 01 ni kunsisssisti kåsi 4,449 square meters, ni gaigi gi hålum Navy Hill, iya Saipan. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee i Creative Capital Corporation. I listan nu ufisiåt siha para i Creative Capital Corporation sa si Angelina L. Villagomez, komu Presidenti, Sigunda Presidenti/Sekritåria/Tresåriu si MA Rosario De La Torre.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni as Siñorita Angelina L. Villagomez.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu "Childhood Education" yan "Care Center".

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' kuarenta (40) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman kuntråtan i atkilon mapega gi put sientus i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, giya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan nu i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na u managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi ***Navy Hill, Saipan.***

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Hulio 15, 2022, gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Ppwomwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálló bwe Lot No. 126 D 01 e lo bwe 4,449 reel square meters, e lapaló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipél. Eyoor pappidil falúw yeel me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwomwol schóól atkkilóón nge Creative Capital Corporation. List-al officers ngáli Creative Capital Corporation nge Angelina L. Villagomez bwe Presidente, Vice President/Secretóória/Treasurer nge MA Rosario De La Torre.

iii. Ppwomwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Ms. Angelina L. Villagomez.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli Childhood Education me Care Center.

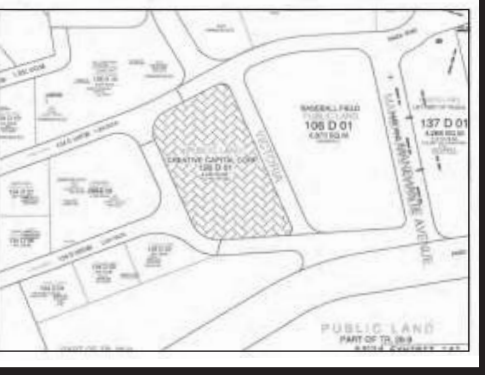
Ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge fááigh ráágh.

Ppwomwol atkkilóón ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage of the appraised fair market value" reel falúw.

v. Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel JoetenDandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél, 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor me Kings Commercial Building me Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw iye e siiweli falúw reel atkkilóónol falúw me ***Navy Hill, Seipél***.

vii. Sekkretóóriyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil kkapas, "views", angiingi ngáre ppwomw ikka aa siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil, Ullyo 15, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap imwu e lo wóól Seipél, Luuta ngáre Tchiliyól.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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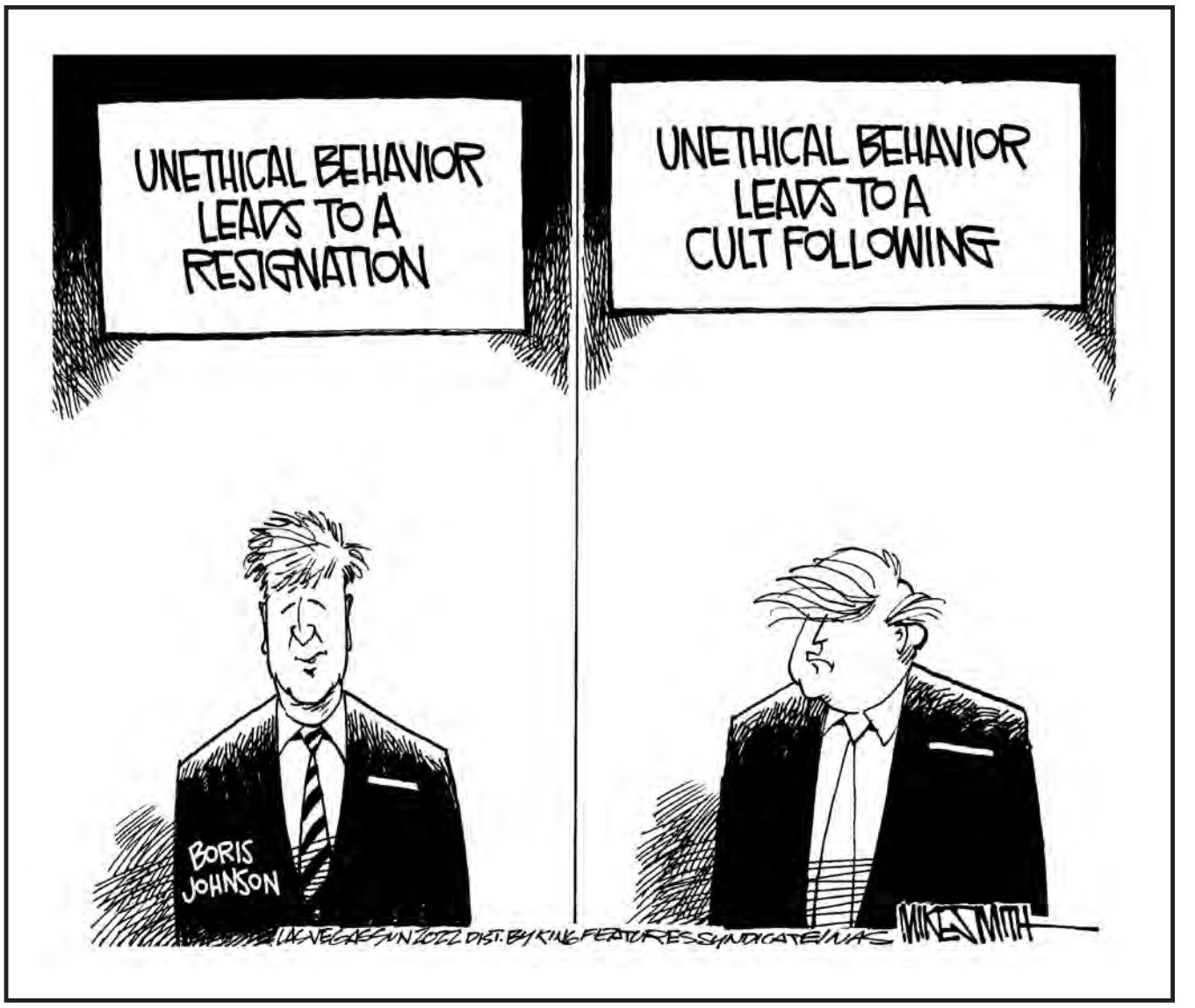
UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR LEADS TO A RESIGNATION
UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR LEADS TO A CULT FOLLOWING
BORIS JOHNSON
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

Lies finally end Boris Johnson's run

In the end, it wasn't one scandal that brought down Boris Johnson. It was a series.

While each transgression was unique, they shared this truth: The British prime minister is a liar.

The weight of the untruths finally became too much even for Conservative parliamentarians. In recent days about 50, from closely allied Cabinet secretaries to ministers and lower-level officials, resigned with refrains that the serial mistruths on matters political and personal made Johnson's continued tenure untenable.

Johnson, true to form, tried to hold on tenaciously, but on Thursday he finally yielded to the inevitable and announced his intention to resign.

"It is clearly now the will of the parliamentary Conservative Party that there should be a new leader," Johnson said in front of the prime minister's residence, the iconic No. 10 Downing Street. "The process of choosing that new leader should begin now."

Finally expressing a modicum of regret—notably not for his scandals but for leaving the office the voters and his party bestowed on him in a landslide 2019 election—Johnson said: "I want to tell you how sorry I am to be giving up the best job in the world. But them's the breaks."

Bad breaks aren't his alone. Brexit's ideological and executional shambolism hasn't economically or geopolitically enriched the United Kingdom as he and his fellow Brexiteers promised. Referring to Johnson's campaign mantra to "Get Brexit Done," Ben Judah, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Program, told an editorial writer in an email interview, "Brexit is done, but Brexit isn't working. The danger for the Conservative Party is that if the U.K. continues to flatline economically, in a decade or so the policy could be reversed when the country starts to feel visibly poorer than France or Germany."

And the unresolved issue of how Brexit is applied to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland—due in part to Johnson's dissembling on the issue—threatens to rekindle sectarian tensions that mainly had been extinguished since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement ended the multi-decade era of violence known as the Troubles. Elsewhere, some Scottish politicians are pressing for another independence referendum.

Johnson was also somewhat slow in marshaling the U.K.'s response to the COVID-19 crisis. And his multiple violations of COVID protocols, once in place, spiraled into the scandal known as "Partygate," leaving even many supporters disgusted by the double standards of Britain's leaders and the prime minister's recurring lies about it. No one—not the public, let alone legislators who pegged their political careers to Johnson—wants to be lied to. But Johnson consistently did just that.

Belying his disheveled ethics (and often appearance), Johnson can be credited with a more orderly and in fact honest approach to bilateral ties between the U.S. and U.K. While he seemed an early ally of former President Donald Trump, who backed Brexit, Johnson extended the outreach to President Joe Biden in an attempt to honor and hone the "special relation-

See LIES on Next Page

Banning 'concealed carry' laws is a disaster

By GRIFFIN DIX
Progressive Perspectives

Griffin Dix, Ph.D., is co-chair of the Oakland/Alameda County Brady Chapter. His fifteen-year-old son, Kenzo, was shot and killed in 1994. This column was produced for The Progressive *magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

After the recent mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, Congress enacted the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most important gun violence prevention law in three decades. But days earlier, on June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in New York State Rifle and Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen marked a major step backward.

Guns, according to the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are the most common cause of death among Americans under the age of 25. The Supreme Court, in ruling that it is unconstitutional for the state of New York to require gun owners to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun in public places, made it much more likely that this trend will continue.

Justice Clarence Thomas's majority opinion—signed by six of the nine justices—relies on the incorrect interpretation in the 2008 District of Columbia v. Heller ruling by Justice Antonin Scalia, which ignored the Second Amendment's history and its preamble.

In the late 18th century, Americans feared standing armies and centralized government. "[O]n both counts they wanted to make sure that the states would be allowed to have armed militias," wrote legal scholar Richard Posner.

The Heller decision reinterpreted the Second Amendment as an individual right to keep a handgun for defense of "home and hearth." Scalia claimed to be an originalist, but as Posner explained, "The irony is that the 'originalist' method would have yielded the opposite result." That is, Scalia should have recognized that the amendment provided a collective right to gun ownership in connection with service in a militia.

The context and language of the Second Amendment are militaristic, including the much-repeated phrase "bear arms." In a Washington Post article, Dennis Baron cites two large English databases from the founding era that confirm that "Non-military uses of 'bear arms' are not just rare—they are almost nonexistent."

Nothing in the Second Amendment makes it unconstitutional for states to regulate the carrying of guns in public places.

In a scathing critique of the court's New York state decision, Fordham University historian Saul Cornell complained about its "intellectual dishonesty and ignorance of basic legal historical method and well established facts." The conservative justices on the bench, he said, "appear most of the time to be making history by inventing it."

The Bruen decision affects similar concealed-carry laws in five other states (California, Maryland, Hawaii, Massachusetts and New Jersey), impacting approximately a quarter of the U.S. population. In response, some of these states are rushing to pass new gun laws they hope the Supreme Court will accept.

But the court's ruling is unclear. For example, the decision says that any new gun law must be like ones enacted historically. But how similar they need to be, and how many similar ones must have been enacted? Sorting this out will take expensive litigation for years.

Currently, the outlook for public safety is bleak. "Apparently no amount of evidence," Cornell wrote, "is enough for (this Supreme Court) to support gun control." As a result, deaths, serious injuries and violent crimes are likely to increase in states that, until now, have had laws that regulate the carrying of guns in public.

There's already a precedent for this scenario: Research by Stanford University law professor John Donohue, for example, found that, within 10 years after states relaxed concealed-carry laws, violent crime rates increased by up to 15%.

It stands to reason that, as more people are able to freely carry handguns, more people will believe that they need guns for protection and, in turn, there will be more gun violence and deaths. Meanwhile, the gun industry will keep profiting off of the chaos, and will use that money to line the pockets of the politicians it wants to influence.

The only way out of this vicious cycle is for Americans to vote for candidates who understand and advocate for stricter federal, state and local gun laws, which are what actually make us safe, whether at home or in public places.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Official statements on the passing of former Japan PM Shinzo Abe

CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres on Friday issued the following statement on the passing of former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe:

I am saddened to hear of the passing of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was a great leader of Japan and the longest-reigning prime minister in Japan's history. Prime minister Abe left a legacy as an outstanding public servant for many years, and he was a great partner to the United States and the CNMI.

Our Commonwealth and Japan have historical, familial, and economic ties with one another, and we join our Japanese brothers and sisters in mourning. We are with you during this time of pain and hardship.

On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we express our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, loved ones, and the people of Japan. He will truly be missed."

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—*Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio issued the following joint statement on the passing of former prime minister of Japan Shinzo Abe:*

We are shocked and saddened upon learning about the passing of former prime minister of Japan Shinzo Abe. Leaders around the world knew him as a man deeply devoted to his country. He was equally dedicated to strengthening the extraordinary alliance between the United States and Japan, and our island of Guam as a result. As we prepare to commemorate Liberation Day, this news reminds us that our people have come a long way to realize lasting peace and friendship with the people of Japan. Our enduring tourism and travel history, which recorded many milestones under prime minister Abe's tenure, symbolizes the better legacy our people have built together. We stand committed to honoring his vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific, and we stand with the world in condemning this horrific act of violence. Our heartfelt thoughts and condolences go out to his family and our Japanese friends in this moment of grief.

How can states limit guns? By protecting the right to peaceably assemble

By IAN AYRES and FREDRICK VARS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The deadly July Fourth attack in Highland Park, Illinois, underscores how a cherished constitutional right is under attack—the First Amendment right to peacefully assemble.

Even before this most recent shooting, it had become dangerous to congregate in public. In dozens of incidents across the United States, counterprotesters armed with assault weapons and other firearms have disrupted demonstrations concerning everything from abortion to vaccine mandates to police brutality.

These disruptions are about to get worse. Because of the recent Supreme Court ruling in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen, states like California are going to be forced to issue concealed weapons permits to many more individuals. California, like New York, will change from a state that "may issue" concealed weapon permits to one that "shall issue" such permits to most adults without felony records.

A pressing challenge for state governments is to reconcile an expanded Second Amendment "right to bear arms" with the First Amendment's "right of the people peaceably to assemble."

One promising approach is for states to follow the lead of Alabama and Maryland and prohibit all citizens from carrying weapons to demonstrations, protests or licensed public gatherings. New York last week did just this, designating as a "sensitive location ... any public sidewalk or other public area restricted from general public access for a limited time or special event that has been issued a permit for such time ... provided such location is identified as such by clear and conspicuous signage; (as well as) any gathering of individuals to collectively express their constitutional rights to protest or assemble."

Blanket prohibitions of guns from all demonstrations and protests face both legal and political obstacles. Legally, it is still not clear that the current conservative majority on the Supreme Court will find such government restrictions on the right to bear arms to be constitutional. After the court's recent ruling, the question will be whether the restriction is sufficiently analogous to historical examples. Politically, some state legislatures may be wary about prohibiting the bearing of arms from each and every demonstration. Open carry might be seen as a form of expression or a needed form of self-defense.

However, states have another way forward. When states and local governments grant permits to private individuals and organizations for gatherings on public land (marches on streets, demonstrations in parks or festivals in plazas, for example), in a sense the government gives the permit holder some special, time-limited control over the event in order to promote the First Amendment rights of free expression and peaceful assembly.

Those governments could allow the organizers of public gatherings to decide whether they want their events to be temporary gun-free zones. Under this approach, all public assemblies — demonstrations, protests, marches and yes, Independence Day parades — by default could be temporarily gun free. But the person seeking a permit for an event would be given the option of checking a box to indicate that firearms would be allowed.

A no-guns default would powerfully respond to the problem of counterprotesters openly carrying firearms to disrupt an event. For example, the Proud Boys could not openly carry assault weapons to intimidate others if event organizers want their demonstration to be gun-free. Law enforcement would enforce this choice. So the NRA could march with guns at their own event, but guns would be presumptively banned at other events.

Putting the permittee in charge of the decision is likely to pass constitutional muster, because any gun ban would result from private rather than government restriction. It is also in keeping with our tradition of allowing event organizers to choose which types of people are allowed to be in attendance.

Another way to put the permittee in charge would be to say that all demonstrations by default permit guns unless the permittee checked a box to prohibit guns. But a "no guns" default is better, in part because not all demonstrations are officially sanctioned by the permit process. A no-guns default, like the New York statute, would cover these gatherings as well. The choice of demonstrators to forgo seeking permit approval could be interpreted as the group's willingness to be gun free. Groups that want to have guns at their events would need to seek a permit and thereby give the police a useful forewarning.

Default choice matters. Everyone agrees that landowners should decide whether a guest is permitted to bring guns onto their property. But until last week every state in the country said that by default customers could bring concealed weapons into stores unless the store owner explicitly objected. New York changed that by changing the default. Landowners still get to decide. But now by default guests in New York may not carry concealed weapons onto someone else's property unless the property owner explicitly says that firearms are welcome. States should create a similar default for assemblies on public land.

Banning guns by default from demonstrations is not a panacea. Such a ban would not have stopped the Highland Park shooting. But it can avoid the combustible confrontation of armed antagonists that all too often risks escalating to violence.

As states scramble to respond to the Supreme Court's radical expansion of Second Amendment rights, a good place to start is to better protect other foundational rights. The right of the people to peaceably assemble is an important counterweight to the new, gun-toting reality.

Ian Ayres and Fredrick Vars are law professors at Yale University and the University of Alabama, respectively, and co-authors of the book Weapon of Choice: Fighting Gun Violence While Respecting Gun Rights.

LIES

From Page 8

ship."

And he was at his best regarding Ukraine, channeling Churchillian resolve. Almost more than any Western leader, Johnson was unequivocal about the need to support the country in its existential fight against Russia. The U.K. backed Ukraine with arms shipments, geopolitical support and the first trip to besieged Kyiv by a major world leader. Johnson "will be fondly remembered in Kyiv because his risk-taking streak saw him consistently out in front on supporting the country amongst Western allies," Judah said. "The next leader might get on better with President Biden, but he won't have that risk-taking streak."

If they're willing to listen, there are lessons in Johnson's downfall for America's conservative cousins across the pond. Even a charismatic political leader can lie for only so long before allies realize that basing a political movement on mistruths is unsustainable.

Those leading now with intrepid integrity while reckoning with Trump's lies—including Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger—should represent the soul and future of the Republican Party. Trump's "big lie" about the 2020 election is more insidious than Johnson's collection of smaller untruths. Republicans—and the republic—would be better off if key GOP members came to the same conclusion as Britain's Tories did in finally telling their leader, "Enough."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

The Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to thank our event sponsors for helping us have a successful first event Saturday, July 2, at the newly striped Pickleball Courts at American Memorial Park: Donn and Marivic Dunlop, Paradise Dental Spa, Monica's Gallery, D&Q, Seawind Marine Sports, Crowne Plaza Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Micronesia Brokers, Pacific Trading Co., Healing Stone, Selkirk, Himawari, Saipan Ice, Kanoa Resort, Joeten Superstore, All-Star Sporting Goods, MarPac, Pacific Saipan, Inc., I Love Saipan, Natural Nail Spa.

Our event was a wild success, and we appreciate our sponsors for their generosity in helping our big day be perfect!

Donna Krum, CIC, CPCU
Friends First Marketing, Inc., Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

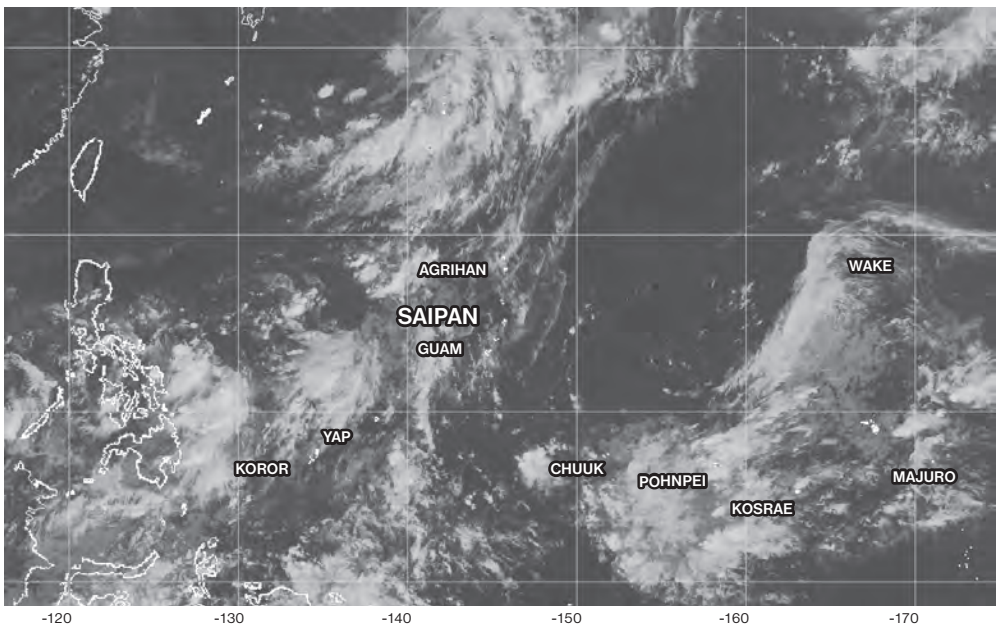
Members of the Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands have their picture taken at the newly striped pickleball courts at American Memorial Park.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Scattered showers. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Cloudy.	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.
88° 76°	87° 76°	87° 77°	86° 78°	84° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:43 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet which are composed mainly of trade-wind swell from just north of east, plus wind waves of 1 to 2 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:47 AM	4:15 PM
Tuesday	-	3:45 AM	5:23 PM
Wednesday	-	4:49 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	-	5:58 AM	7:34 PM
Friday	-	7:06 AM	8:30 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	77° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 64°
Honolulu	Windy	77° / 66°
London	Cloudy	52° / 50°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 47°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 74°
New York	Rain	61° / 46°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	48° / 37°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 37°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 37°
Rome	Sunny	55° / 34°
Salem	Showers	74° / 44°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 45°
Seoul	Showers	43° / 27°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 36°
Washington, DC	Rain	60° / 44°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:00 AM	High Tide	2.14
11:34 AM	Low Tide	-0.15
6:55 PM	High Tide	2.00
11:42 PM	Low Tide	1.50

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Coast Guard cutter offloads potable water on Kiribati island

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard provided safe drinking water to Kiritimati Island in Kiribati, last July 8, soon after the Republic of Kiribati declared a national state of emergency due to extreme drought.

For over two days, the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Berry* conducted contactless offloads of potable drinking water, working with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund representatives to support the local residents amidst the national state of emergency while maintaining strict COVID-19 precautions.

"Our crew is excited and humbled for the opportunity to support the people of Kiribati," said Lt. Micah Howell, commanding officer of the *Oliver Berry*. "Thanks to the coordination efforts of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, UNICEF, and the Kiribati government, we are able to provide safe drinking water to the Island of Kiritimati at a time when it is needed most."

U.S. COAST GUARD/USCGC OLIVER BERRY

The Coast Guard cutter *Oliver Berry* crew conducts a potable water offload while moored up at Kiritmati Island, Kiribati, July 8, 2022.

In addition to providing humanitarian assistance, the *Oliver Berry* crew supported Kiribati maritime law enforcement efforts, providing patrol coverage in Kiribati's exclusive economic zone in order to deter illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing, support Kiribati resource security, and strengthen maritime governance in Oceania.

"The *Oliver Berry*'s patrol demonstrates the United States Coast Guard's enduring commitment to our partner nations throughout Oceania," said Howell. "Instances like these pave the way for future Coast Guard assets to support the Republic of Kiribati, and its citizens."

The *Oliver Berry* is one of the Coast Guards fast response cutters equipped with advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems. At 154-feet long, they reach speeds of over 28-knots covering a distance of 2,500 nautical miles over a five-day patrol, greatly improving the Coast Guard's ability to conduct missions ranging from search and rescue to national defense while also contributing to joint operations between the United States and its regional partners. ***(USCG)***

Sablan-Fleming statement on passing of Herb Soll

Sablan

Staffler

Democratic gubernatorial candidates Rep. Christina "Tina" Sablan and Rep. Leila Fleming Staffler issued the following joint statement on the passing of former CNMI Superior Court judge Herb Soll:

We join the people of the Marianas in mourning the loss of a truly great man: Herb Soll, who meant so much to so many.

Herb was a giant in the legal community, and a trusted and beloved mentor to numerous attorneys. He was instrumental in the establishment of our court system, and served the people of the Marianas as judge, public defender, hearing officer, and attorney general.

Herb was an advocate for human rights, and a champion of good governance; a true-blue Democrat, and a statesman. He was a longtime member of the NMI Democratic Party's executive committee, and a rock star representing the Marianas at the Democratic National Convention.

Herb was a compassionate soul, a terrific listener, a collector of beautiful art, a tremendous intellect, a family man, and a dear friend to all who were blessed to know him. He cared deeply about the people of the Marianas and our island cultures, and believed it was important to ensure that we pass on our traditions to future generations.

Herb loved the Marianas, and the Marianas loved him. We will miss him greatly.

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Herb's family, and especially his wife Elena, their children, and grandchildren. May Herb rest in peace. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536TTY: (670) 322-6449;
E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2022 Third General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at Aqua Resort Club, Taga Room from 9:00AM to 11:00AM.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of July 13, 2022.

IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of the Statewide Independent Living Council first general membership meeting of May 25, 2022.

V. Reports
- a. SILC Chairperson
- b. CLI Executive Director
- c. OVR Executive Director

VI. Old Business
- a. Orientation Training July 13, 2022 from 12:30PM to 2:00PM
- b. FY 2022 SPIL Report update
- c. Tinian Membership

VII. New Business
- a. New Members

VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous

IX. Next general membership meeting: _____

X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Mr. Samuel Santos (OVR Transition Specialist) at 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY) or email samuel@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

/s/ **Consolacion Atalig**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Title VI-B Independent Living Services, ACL Grant.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-035

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, 2023 & 2024

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites.

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2022, 2023 & 2024 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-22-035, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2022, 2023 & 2024"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 3, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 20, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Musk abandons deal to buy Twitter; company eyes suit

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, TOM KRISHER and MATT O'BRIEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elon Musk announced Friday that he will abandon his tumultuous $44 billion offer to buy Twitter after the company failed to provide enough information about the number of fake accounts. Twitter immediately fired back, saying it would sue the Tesla CEO to uphold the deal.

The likely unraveling of the acquisition was just the latest twist in a saga between the world's richest man and one of the most influential social media platforms, and it may portend a titanic legal battle ahead.

Twitter could have pushed for a $1 billion breakup fee that Musk agreed to pay under these circumstances. Instead, it looks ready to fight to complete the purchase, which the company's board has approved and CEO Parag Agrawal has insisted he wants to consummate.

In a letter to Twitter's board, Musk lawyer Mike Ringler complained that his client had for nearly two months sought data to judge the prevalence of "fake or spam" accounts on the social media platform.

"Twitter has failed or refused to provide this information. Sometimes Twitter has ignored Mr. Musk's requests, sometimes it has rejected them for reasons that appear to be unjustified, and sometimes it has claimed to comply while giving Mr. Musk incomplete or unusable information," the letter said.

Musk also said the information is fundamental to Twitter's business and financial performance, and is needed to finish the merger.

In response, the chair of Twitter's board, Bret Taylor, tweeted that the board is "committed to closing the transaction on the price and terms agreed upon" with Musk and "plans to pursue legal action to enforce the merger agreement. We are confident we will prevail in the Delaware Court of Chancery."

The trial court in Delaware frequently handles business disputes among the many corporations, including Twitter, that are incorporated there.

Former President Donald Trump weighed in on his own social platform, Truth Social: "THE TWITTER DEAL IS DEAD, LONG LIVE THE 'TRUTH"'. Musk said in May that he would allow Trump, who was banned from Twitter following the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, back onto the platform.

Much of the drama surrounding the deal has played out on Twitter, with Musk — who has more than 100 million followers—lamenting that the company was failing to live up to its potential as a platform for free speech.

On Friday, shares of Twitter fell 5% to $36.81, well below the $54.20 that Musk agreed to pay. Shares of Tesla, meanwhile, climbed 2.5% to $752.29. After the market closed and Musk's letter was published, Twitter's stock continued to decline while Tesla climbed higher.

Macao to shutter casinos for a week in COVID-19 outbreak

BEIJING (AP)—The Asian gambling center of Macao will close all its casinos for a week starting Monday and largely restrict people to their homes as it tries to stop a COVID-19 outbreak that has infected more than 1,400 people in the past three weeks.

All businesses have been ordered to shut except for supermarkets and others providing essential services. Residents must stay home unless they need to go out, such as for food shopping or to work in a sector deemed essential.

Macao, a semi-autonomous Chinese region like nearby Hong Kong, is facing its first sizeable outbreak of the pandemic. The city of 680,000 people recorded 93 new cases on Saturday, bringing the total in the ongoing outbreak to 1,467.

The former Portuguese colony has been following a version of China's "zero-COVID" strategy, locking down buildings that have cases and conducting repeated rounds of mass testing to find and isolate infected individuals.

Authorities warned that police would be patrolling the streets and violators would face penalties, according to Macao media reports. Anyone going out must wear a mask, with adults required to use an N95 or equivalent one.

The measures, announced Saturday, expand on restrictions that have been in place since June 23. The earlier order closed hair salons, gyms, cinemas, bars, nightclubs and other entertainment venues and banned dining in restaurants, limiting them to takeout or delivery.

Macao's economy is heavily dependent on its casinos and related businesses, which have been hit hard by the pandemic. Revenue from gambling recovered somewhat last year but is still far below pre-pandemic levels.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Canada: Outage leaves many without mobile, internet service

TORONTO (AP) — A widespread network outage left many Canadians without mobile and internet service for most of Friday, disrupting police, business and court services as crowds flocked to work at coffee shops with Wi-Fi. Rogers Communications Inc. said it started restoring service late in the day and said its teams "are working hard to get everyone back online as quickly as possible." The outage began early in the morning and stretched into the evening, interrupting services across retailers and credit card processors, police and courts, airlines and train networks. The company offered no explanation for what caused he outage, how many customers were impacted or where they were located.

Production resumes at troubled Abbott baby formula factory

Production of baby formula has resumed at the Abbott Nutrition factory in Michigan whose February shutdown over contamination contributed to a national shortage, a company spokesman said. Damage from severe thunderstorms including flooding had forced the Sturgis plant to halt operations in mid-June just two weeks after restarting production with additional sanitizing and safety protocols. Production of EleCare, a specialty formula for infants with severe food allergies and digestive problems, was restored at Sturgis following a July 1 reboot, said Abbott spokesman John Koval. "We are working to restart Similac production as soon as we can. We'll provide more information when we have it," he said via email. ***(AP)***

Nation

Yosemite wildfire threatens grove of iconic sequoia trees

AP

A firefighter protects a sequoia tree as the Washburn Fire burns in Mariposa Grove in Yosemite National Park, Calif., on Friday, July 8, 2022.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP)—The largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park remained closed Saturday as firefighters battled a blaze that threatened the gathering of the iconic trees and forced hundreds of campers to evacuate.

The rest of the park in California remained open, though smoke that hung in the air obscured some of the most scenic vistas and views.

More than 500 mature sequoias were threatened in the Mariposa Grove but as of Saturday afternoon there were no reports of severe damage to any named trees, including the 3,000-year-old Grizzly Giant. Some of the massive trunks were wrapped in fire-resistant foil for protection as the blaze burned out of control.

The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Beyond the trees, the small community of Wawona, which is surrounded by park and a campground, was under threat, with people ordered to leave their homes and campsites on Friday night.

The fire was proving difficult to contain, with firefighters throwing "every tactic imaginable" at it, said Nancy Phillipe, a Yosemite fire information spokesperson. That included air drops of fire retardant as well as the planned use of bulldozers to create fire lines, a tactic that's rarely used in a wilderness setting like Yosemite, Phillipe said.

The bulldozers would primarily be used to put in fire lines to protect Wawona, she said. About 600 to 700 people who were staying at the Wawona campground in tents, cabins and an historic hotel were ordered to leave.

Though firefighters were facing hot and dry conditions, they didn't have to contend with intense winds on Saturday, said Jeffrey Barlow, senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford. Given the relatively small size of the fire and minimal winds, smoke impacts were not expected to stretch far beyond the park, he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Florida woman hides mother's body in freezer

SEBASTIAN, Fla. (AP)—A Florida woman was charged with failing to report her mother's death more than two months after the woman's body was found in a freezer in the home they shared. The woman, 64, was arrested Thursday and also charged with tampering with evidence. Her 93-year-old mother's body was found after a welfare check was conducted in late April, according to the Sebastian Police Department's Facebook page. The daughter told investigators she bought the deep freezer and put her mother's body in it so she could keep receiving her disability payments. The department said an investigation showed the woman died of natural causes and that she was dead for two weeks before her body was put in the freezer. Investigators searching the property found a heavily stained mattress hidden in thick brush and covered with cut palm leaves, police said. The woman was being held in the Indian River County jail on $10,000 bond. Online jail records didn't list a lawyer for her.

Family found living with weapons in Nevada children's museum

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—A Nevada couple was found secretly keeping a cache of weapons and living with their two kids at a northern Nevada children's museum where they worked, authorities said. A janitor at the Children's Museum of Northern Nevada was arrested late last week, KRNV-TV in Reno reported Friday. The 41-year-old man has been charged with child neglect and endangerment and possession of a suppressor and a short barrel rifle. Authorities discovered the arsenal in a storage room, they said. A police report listed an AK-47 rifle, three handguns, a pistol, ammunition, knives and a taser that could have been reached by a child. The stash also included drug paraphernalia like a bong and a used marijuana joint. Officials realized the family was living in the museum after the man's 2-year-old child was spotted walking nearby unsupervised, the Carson City Sheriff's Office said.

Asia

Abe's death raises security questions as Japan mourns

AP

People pray at a makeshift memorial at the scene where the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot while delivering his speech to support the Liberal Democratic Party's candidate during an election campaign in Nara, Friday, July 8, 2022.

TOKYO (AP)—A top police official on Saturday acknowledged possible security lapses that allowed an assassin to fire his gun into former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe while he was addressing a campaign rally, raising questions how could the attacker get so close behind him.

Abe was shot in the western city of Nara on Friday and airlifted to a hospital but died of blood loss. Police arrested the attacker, a former member of Japan's navy, at the scene. Police confiscated his homemade gun and several others were later found at his apartment.

The attacker, Tetsuya Yamagami, told investigators he acted because he believed rumors that Abe was connected to an organization that he resents, police said. Japanese media reported that the man had developed hatred toward a religious group that his mother was obsessed about and that caused his family financial problems. The reports did not specify the group.

On Saturday, a black hearse carrying Abe's body and accompanied by his wife, Akie, arrived at his home in Tokyo's upscale residential area of Shibuya. Many mourners, including top party officials, waited for his remains and lowered their heads as the vehicle passed.

Nara prefectural police chief Tomoaki Onizuka said Abe's assassination was his "greatest regret" in a 27-year career.

"I cannot deny there were problems with our security," Onizuka said. "Whether it was a setup, emergency response, or ability of individuals, we still have to find out. Overall, there was a problem and we will review it from every perspective."

Abe's assassination ahead of Sunday's parliamentary election shocked the nation and raised questions over whether security for the former prime minister was adequate.

Some observers who watched videos of the attack noted a lack of attention in the open space behind Abe as he spoke.

A former Kyoto prefectural police investigator, Fumikazu Higuchi, said the footage suggested security was sparse at the event and insufficient for a former prime minister.

"It is necessary to investigate why security allowed Yamagami to freely move and go behind Mr. Abe," Higuchi told a Nippon TV talk show.

US eyes counter-China moves in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is visiting Thailand as the Biden administration moves to show its commitment to Southeast Asia in the face of a relentless push for influence in the region from China.

Blinken was meeting with senior Thai officials and democracy activists from neighboring Myanmar on Sunday in Bangkok. He signed an agreement with Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai expanding the U.S.-Thailand "Strategic Alliance and Partnership."

Blinken came to Thailand after attending an international conference in Bali, Indonesia, where he also raised concerns about China's increasing assertiveness in talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Like its predecessors, the Biden administration has watched China's rapid growth warily and sought to hold it to international standards without significant success. Blinken said Saturday that China's support for Russia in its war in Ukraine poses a threat to the rules-based order and complicates already tense relations between Washington and Beijing.

But China's aggressive push into its Southeast Asian neighbors and maintaining a robust regional U.S. presence are at the top of Blinken's agenda in Thailand, according to American officials. They also say Blinken will offer support and encouragement to Myanmar dissidents who have been forced to flee the country since the military seized power from the elected government on Feb. 1, 2021.

The U.S. and like-minded democracies are trying to discourage developing Southeast Asian countries from entering large-scale infrastructure and development projects with China unless they are proven economically feasible, structurally sound and environmentally safe.

"What we're about is not asking countries to choose but giving them a choice when it comes to things like investment and infrastructure, development assistance, et cetera," Blinken said in Bali.

"There is on one level plenty of room for everyone to do that because the needs are immense," he said. "But what we want to make sure is that we're engaged in a race to the top—that is, we do things to the highest standards—not a race to the bottom where we do things to the lowest standards."

World

UK leader hopefuls jostling as Johnson digs in for final weeks

LONDON (AP)—Former British Treasury chief Rishi Sunak formally launched his campaign to replace departing Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday, leaping to the front of what is set to be a large pack of Conservative Party contenders—even as some party lawmakers pushed to get the scandal-tarnished Johnson out of office before his replacement is elected over the summer.

Johnson announced his resignation on Thursday—a dizzying about-face after months of insisting he would stay in the job despite mounting ethics scandals and growing Conservative discontent.

He quit as party leader with a statement to the nation outside 10 Downing St., but said he would stay on as prime minister until his successor is chosen by the party. That decision didn't sit well with some of his Conservative colleagues, who worry that Johnson lacks the authority to hang on, or could do mischief even as a caretaker prime minister.

Sunak

James Cleverly, who was appointed education secretary Thursday after his predecessor quit during a mass exodus of ministers, defended Johnson's decision to stay.

"It's right that he has stood down and it's right that he has put a team in place to continue governing whilst the selection procedure flows for his successor," Cleverly told Sky News.

Party officials on Monday are expected to set out the timetable for a leadership contest, with the aim of having a winner by the end of the summer. The two-step process involves Tory lawmakers voting to reduce the field of candidates to two, who will go to a ballot of all party members.

Sunak, whose resignation this week helped topple Johnson, launched his campaign with a slick video casting himself as a serious leader who could "grip this moment and make the right decisions."

"Do we confront this moment with honesty, seriousness and determination, or do we tell ourselves comforting fairy tales that might make us feel better in the moment, but will leave our children worse off tomorrow?" asked Sunak, one of the bookies' favorites to win the contest.

'Russia raising true hell in the east'

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces are raising "true hell" in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland, despite assessments they were taking an operational pause, a regional governor said Saturday, while another Ukrainian official urged people in Russian-occupied southern areas to evacuate quickly "by all possible means" before a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

Deadly Russian shelling was reported in Ukraine's east and south.

The governor of the eastern Luhansk region, Serhyi Haidai, said Russia launched more than 20 artillery, mortar and rocket strikes on the region overnight and its forces were pressing toward the border with the Donetsk region.

"We are trying to contain the Russians' armed formations along the entire front line," Haidai wrote on Telegram.

Last week, Russia captured the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk, the city of Lysychansk. Analysts predicted Moscow's troops likely would take some time to rearm and regroup.

But "so far there has been no operational pause announced by the enemy. He is still attacking and shelling our lands with the same intensity as before," Haidai said. He later said the Russian bombardment of Luhansk was suspended because Ukrainian forces had destroyed ammunition depots and barracks used by the Russians.

Ukraine's deputy prime minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, appealed to residents of Russian-held territories in the south to evacuate quickly so the occupying forces could not use them as human shields during a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

WORLD BRIEFS

South Africa police say 14 dead in bar shooting in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—A mass shooting at a tavern in Johannesburg's Soweto township has killed 14 people and left three others in critical condition, according to police. Police say they are investigating reports that a group of men arrived in a minibus taxi and opened fire on some of the patrons at the bar late Saturday night. Police were on Sunday morning removing bodies of the deceased and investigating what had led to the mass shooting. The three critically injured and one other person wounded have been taken to Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. The number of cartridges found on the scene indicated it was a group of people who shot at the patrons, said Gauteng province police commissioner Lt. Gen. Elias Mawela.

Ukraine: 6 dead in rocket attack on apartment building

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian rockets hit the eastern Ukraine town of Chasiv Yar, destroying a five-story apartment building and killing at least six people, the region's governor said Sunday. Pavlo Kyrylenko, governor of the Donetsk region, said about three dozen people could be trapped in the rubble. Rescuers have made contact with two people who are under the wreckage, he said on the Telegram messaging app. Kyrylenko said the town of about 12,000 was hit by Uragan rockets, which are fired from truck-borne systems. Chasiv Yar is about 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Kramatorsk, a city that is expected to be a major target of Russian forces as they grind westward. The Donetsk region is one of two provinces along with Luhansk that make up the Donbas region, where separatist rebels have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014. Last week, Russia captured the city of Lysychansk, the last major stronghold of Ukrainian resistance in Luhansk.

Health & Wellness

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When you eat could be key to living longer, scientists say

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

DALLAS—New research from the UT Southwestern Medical Center suggests that not only what we eat, but also when we eat it, could play a role in how long we live.

The idea that reducing the amount of calories you eat can extend your lifespan has been around for a while.

But recently, a team led by UT Southwestern neuroscience professors Joseph Takahashi and Carla Green discovered that caloric restriction extended mice's life spans the most when the mice chowed down in accordance with their circadian clocks: internal timekeeping devices that make sure our cells are primed for food, sleep and activity. Their work was published in the journal Science in May.

"It really cemented this idea that aligning your eating with your circadian rhythms is so important to overall health," said Green, who is also a Distinguished Scholar of Neuroscience at UT Southwestern.

While the research was performed on mice, future studies could yield clues about how human eating habits factor into our lifespans, as well.

Both Takahashi and Green have studied circadian rhythms for years. Takahashi, who is chair of the department of neuroscience and an investigator in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at UT Southwestern, identified the first gene known to control circadian clocks in mammals in 1997 with his lab. He and Green, who are married, have worked together on research projects in the past.

Eight years ago, the two of them pored over previous research on caloric restriction in mice, and discovered something surprising. The mice in these experiments were being fed exclusively during the day, even though mice are nocturnal. Further, the mice were only being fed three times a week.

"That's kind of an unusual feeding protocol, because mice don't eat every other day," Takahashi said.

This outdated feeding protocol prevented scientists from coming into work at odd hours to feed their mice, but it wasn't a good representation of how mice would normally grab their meals.

So, Green and Takahashi decided to test how important caloric restriction was to mice's lifespans when the mice ate according to their normal daily rhythms.

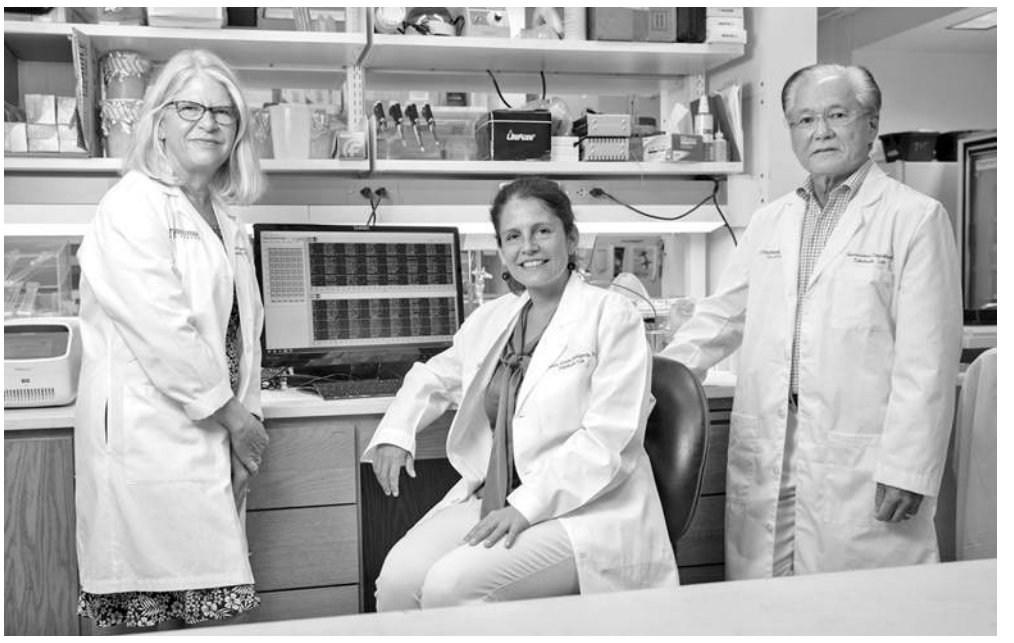
Green and Takahashi set up their experiment with several different groups of mice. They varied what and when the mice could eat, using three different feeding factors.

The first was calorie number. In the researchers' control group, the mice's diet wasn't calorie-restricted. In the remaining five groups, the mice's calories were restricted by 30 percent.

The second was circadian rhythm alignment: how the mice's feeding schedule aligned with when they normally ate. Some of the mice ate only at night, like they were used to, and others ate only during the day.

JUAN FIGUEROA/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

The automated feeder used to feed mice as part of their experiment at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Hamon Biomedical Research Building on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, in Dallas, Texas.



Carla Green, Victoria Acosta-Rodriguez and Joseph Takahashi pose for a photo by the computer that controls and monitors the "automated feeders" they use to feed mice as part of their experiment at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Hamon Biomedical Research Building on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, in Dallas, Texas.

JUAN FIGUEROA/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

The third was fasting time, or how long the mice weren't eating. In the day and night groups, some of the mice were given their food spaced out over 12 hours, and fasted for the remaining 12 hours. The other mice were given their day's meal all at once, and binge-ate it in two hours. A final group of mice was given their food over 24 hours, with no fasting at all.

When it came to actually feeding the mice, though, the researchers hit a roadblock. To manually feed groups of mice during the day and night, they needed to be in the lab at all hours, every day, for the mice's entire lifespan.

"We quickly realized that this would be an incredibly difficult experiment to do," Takahashi said.

Green and Takahashi's labs solved this problem by creating their own feeders. They designed a set of 500 feeders – one for each mouse – to dispense food pellets at a pre-programmed time. The process of creating and testing the feeders took almost two years.

Once the tech was ready, the team measured how long all the mice lived, and took a look at what genes were expressed in each mouse over time.

They found that the mice that ate fewer calories, but over a period of 24 hours – with no circadian rhythm alignment – lived only 10% longer than the control mice.

The calorically-restricted mice that ate at night over a 12-hour period lived 35% longer than the control group.

"It's the same amount of food, the same calories," said Victoria Acosta-Rodriguez, a postdoctoral researcher in Takahashi's lab and an author of the study. "It's when the mice eat that could have a huge impact on how long they live. For me, this was crazy."

Roman Kondratov, a professor of biology at Cleveland State University, said the research provided compelling evidence for the role of fasting in extending lifespan.

"In my opinion, they provided the first direct evidence that fasting is an essential component of caloric restriction," said Kondratov, who was not involved with the UT Southwestern study. "Reduction of … calories has positive effects, but in combination with fasting, it's even better."

The mice who lived longest in the study ate from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., standard time. For humans, that would look like restricting eating to any 12-hour period while we're awake during the day. Takahashi said there's evidence it's better to begin that interval earlier in the day instead of skipping breakfast.

Both Takahashi and Acosta-Rodriguez have begun applying the study's results to their own eating habits.

"In Argentina, I will have dinner at, like, 10 p.m.," Acosta-Rodriguez said. "Here, I'm trying to do it at 7 p.m., and after this, trying not to get calories. Kind of like shortening the feeding windows."

Green and Takahashi's research provides some answers as to how what and when we eat factors into how long we live.

Now the researchers look at a crucial follow-up question: Why? Figuring out exactly which clock-regulating molecules or genes in mice helped them live longer in this study could be the key to applying these findings to humans.

"Going forward, it's going to be really interesting to look at the exact mechanisms of what aspect of this is really the critical feature that promotes longevity and the health of these animals," Green said.

Adithi Ramakrishnan is a science reporting fellow at The Dallas Morning News. Her fellowship is supported by the University of Texas at Dallas. The News makes all editorial decisions.

Researching tennis wrist injuries

By JASON HOWLAND
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

From beginners to the pros, injuries from playing tennis do happen, especially in the wrist.

Whether it's the serve, forehand, backhand or volley, tennis puts a lot of stress on your wrist.

"There are about 18 million tennis players in the United States. And when we talk about injuries in the upper extremity, about 30% in tennis players are wrist injuries. That's a high number," says Dr. Sanj Kakar, a Mayo Clinic hand and wrist surgeon.

Many of those injuries are caused by chronic overuse.

"In the average tennis match, there are over 1,000 ground strokes. Now if you're practicing three, four times a week, for two, three hours, maybe not hit 1,000 shots. Maybe just practice on volleying," says Dr. Kakar.

How you grip the racket and hit the ball plays a major role, too, which is why Mayo researchers recently studied tennis players' strokes in a motion analysis lab.

"With our research, we've learned—just by looking at the various muscles and motion capture technology—we can really break it down to the millisecond to see which muscles are firing appropriately and which ones aren't," says Dr. Kakar. "I've actually had patients who we've operated on, and they've gone through this program to see that actually, when they're hitting a topspin, their wrist is in the wrong position. That can't be picked up with the naked eye. And now they can work with their tennis professionals to improve their form to hopefully prevent further injury."

Why you should come out as LGBTQ to your health care team

By JASON HOWLAND
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Many members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or gender-nonconforming community continue to experience stigma and keep their identities hidden. That may mean not sharing their sexual identity or orientation with their health care team.

Dr. Natalie Erbs, a Mayo Clinic family medicine physician, says it's important information to share that information with your health care team to ensure everyone gets the best care possible.

When filling out forms before seeing your health care provider, you might see a line asking about your sexual orientation or gender identity.

"Sometimes it's hard to say the words out loud, but it's much easier to click a button. But again, we want to know that about you to get you the right care and get you to the right place," says Dr. Erbs.

But why does it matter?

"We want to know that about you so that we can get you the right care and get you to the right place," Dr. Erbs says.

Talking about sexual behaviors is essential when it comes to your health.

"It affects what type of screenings you might need for certain sexually transmitted infections, depending on the type of sex you're having, and what exposures you might have to other things like HIV," says Dr. Erbs. "Some of my patients might qualify to be put on HIV prophylaxis to prevent HIV, depending on the type of sex and who they're having sex with."

Dr. Erbs says she hopes you choose to come out to your health care provider.

"We in primary care want to see you, and we want to know about you and get to know you as a person," says Dr. Erbs.

Life & Style

James Caan, Oscar nominee for 'The Godfather,' dies at 82

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

James Caan, the curly-haired tough guy known to movie fans as the hotheaded Sonny Corleone of "The Godfather" and to television audiences as both the dying football player in the classic weeper "Brian's Song" and the casino boss in "Las Vegas," has died. He was 82.

His manager Matt DelPiano said he died Wednesday. No cause was given and Caan's family, who requests privacy, said that no further details would be released at this time.

Caan

Al Pacino wrote in an emailed statement that, "Jimmy was my fictional brother and my lifelong friend. It's hard to believe that he won't be in the world anymore because he was so alive and daring. A great actor, a brilliant director and my dear friend. I loved him, gonna miss him." Robert De Niro also wrote that he was, "very very sad to hear about Jimmy's passing."

A football player at Michigan State University and a practical joker on production sets, Caan was a grinning, handsome performer with an athlete's swagger and muscular build. He managed a long career despite drug problems, outbursts of temper and minor brushes with the law.

Caan had been a favorite of Francis Ford Coppola since the 1960s, when Coppola cast him for the lead in "Rain People." He was primed for a featured role in "The Godfather" as Sonny, the No. 1 enforcer and eldest son of Mafia boss Vito Corleone.

Sonny Corleone, a violent and reckless man who conducted many killings, met his own end in one of the most jarring movie scenes in history. Racing to find his sister's husband, Corleone stops at a toll booth that he discovers is unnervingly empty of customers. Before he can escape he is cut down by a seemingly endless fusillade of machine-gun fire. For decades after, he once said, strangers would approach him on the street and jokingly warn him to stay clear of toll roads.

Roy Moore's defamation suit against Baron Cohen rejected

By KIM CHANDLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

An appeals court on Thursday rejected a $95 million defamation lawsuit against Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen filed by former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, who said he was tricked into a television appearance that lampooned sexual misconduct accusations against him.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan, upholding a lower court's ruling in favor of Baron Cohen, said Moore signed a disclosure agreement that prohibited any legal claims over the appearance.

The three judges also found it was "clearly comedy" when Baron Cohen demonstrated a so-called pedophile detector that beeped when it got near Moore and no viewer would think the comedian was making factual allegations against Moore.

The lawsuit centered on Moore's unwitting appearance on the comic's "Who is America?" show. The segment ran after Moore faced misconduct accusations during Alabama's 2017 U.S. Senate race that he had pursued sexual and romantic relationships with teens when he was a man in his 30s. He denied the allegations.

Moore, a Republican known for his hardline stances opposing same-sex marriage and supporting the public display of Ten Commandments, had been told he was receiving an award for supporting Israel. But in the segment, Baron Cohen appeared as faux counterterrorism instructor "Col. Erran Morad" discussing bogus military technology, including the supposed pedophile detector. The fake device beeped repeatedly as it got near Moore, who sat stone-faced.

Moore

"Baron Cohen may have implied (despite his in character disclaimers of any belief that Judge Moore was a pedophile) that he believed Judge Moore's accusers, but he did not imply the existence of any independent factual basis for that belief besides the obviously farcical pedophile detecting 'device,' which no reasonable person could believe to be an actual, functioning piece of technology," the court wrote in the unsigned summary order.

Report: WWE boss McMahon's hush cash bill over $12 million

NEW YORK (AP) —The longtime World Wrestling Entertainment impresario Vince McMahon agreed to pay more than $12 million over the past 16 years to suppress allegations of sexual misconduct and infidelity, the Wall Street Journal reports.

The amount is significantly larger than what was previously known.

Four women —all formerly affiliated with WWE —signed agreements with McMahon, 76, that bar them from discussing their relationships with him, the Journal reported on Friday, citing people familiar with the deals and documents it reviewed.

McMahon stepped down as CEO and chairman of WWE in mid-June during an investigation into the alleged misconduct and the Journal reported at the time that he had agreed to pay $3 million to a former paralegal who said he sexually harassed her on the job.

McMahon will continue to oversee WWE's creative content during the investigation.

WWE named McMahon's daughter, Stephanie, interim CEO and chairwoman during the investigation into his alleged misconduct though he continued to oversee the company's creative side. The organization stated at the time that it will have no further comment until the investigation is over.

Vernon Winfrey, Oprah's father, dies at 89

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's father, Vernon Winfrey, has died at the age of 89.

Oprah confirmed in an Instagram post that her father died in Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday.

"Yesterday with family surrounding his bedside I had the sacred honor of witnessing the man responsible for my life, take his last breath," the media mogul wrote. "We could feel peace enter the room at his passing."

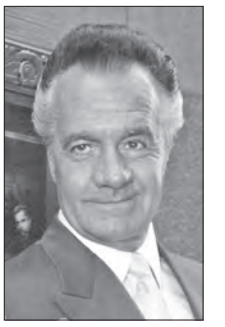
Details about funeral plans were not immediately released.

Earlier this week, Oprah surprised her father by throwing him a surprise barbeque in Nashville on the Fourth of July. The event was called "Vernon Winfrey Appreciation Day," which included a barber chair to honor his long career as a barber and owning his own shop in Nashville for nearly 50 years.

Vernon served as a member of Nashville's Metro City Council for 16 years and was a trustee for the Tennessee State University.

'Sopranos' actor Tony Sirico, 'Paulie Walnuts,' dies at 79

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tony Sirico, who played the impeccably groomed mobster Paulie Walnuts in "The Sopranos" and brought his tough-guy swagger to films including "Goodfellas," died Friday. He was 79.


Sirico

Sirico died at an assisted living facility in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said his manager, Bob McGowen. There was no immediate information on the cause of death.

A statement from Sirico's family confirmed the death of Gennaro Anthony "Tony" Sirico "with great sadness, but with incredible pride, love and a whole lot of fond memories."

McGowan, who represented Sirico for more than two decades, recalled him as "loyal and giving," with a strong philanthropic streak. That included helping ex-soldiers' causes, which hit home for the Army veteran, his manager said.

Stay-at-home mom anxious as 20-year marriage crumbles

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Brett," and I have been legally married for five years. We had a common-law marriage for more than 15 years before that. Brett was always a stable and encouraging partner, but over the last two to three years he has changed. He's angry and he blames me for things that could not possibly be my fault. He blows up in a rage and throws things across the room over insignificant annoyances. He has removed my name from our bank accounts and changed all the passwords.

Abby, Brett is the breadwinner. We have had counseling, but he wasn't a participant as much as an observer, and later he criticized the therapist. I'm a homemaker, and I make some extra money creating artwork on commission. We have a son who is 12. I am going to be looking for a job or going back to school.

I have kept this to myself and haven't shared with family or friends because I'm embarrassed. It brings back my own parents' fighting and divorce. When my husband rages, I freeze. I'm unable to think and usually just retreat within myself for a while. I'm not thinking rationally and I need advice.

MARRIAGE GONE WRONG

DEAR MARRIAGE GONE WRONG: Your husband's behavior is threatening, demeaning and emotionally abusive. When he rages, it is not unusual for someone to shut down as you have done. It's vital that you get to the bottom of what has gone wrong with your marriage. An abrupt change in personality such as you describe is not normal, and your husband may need a physical and neurological evaluation.

Your mistake has been in remaining silent. Inform his doctor, your family and his about what has been going on. You should also make an appointment for yourself with an attorney who specializes in family law and can explain your rights as a (legal) wife in the state in which you live, because I don't think you can be cut off financially as Brett has done.

A final thought: Take concrete steps now toward becoming financially independent. The handwriting on the wall tells me it may be necessary.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My father and I weren't close while I was growing up, and it affected me negatively in a lot of ways. I was resentful until, 30 years later, I told him how I felt. He validated my feelings and we started building our relationship.

He died nine months ago, and I connected with a friend of his who worked with him as a social worker. He's 20 years my senior and has been a good friend to me. I have been struggling with depression and attempted suicide. I would get into counseling but I can't afford to, so good friends (which aren't many) are a godsend.

After visiting him, I went to my mother's, and the first thing she said when I walked in the door was, "Is he trying to get in your pants?" I was deeply offended and replied, "Not every person wants to be my friend so they can get in my pants." She then told me I should "lighten up" and accused me of being too sensitive.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Are my feelings valid or am I being too sensitive?

STRUGGLING IN UTAH

DEAR STRUGGLING: I'm sorry for your loss, and for your struggle with depression. Humor is risky. Your mother's attempt at it bombed. Because you are emotionally fragile, you may have overreacted. Although you said you can't afford counseling, it may be time to check with your local department of mental health or the psychology department at your local university to see if low-cost help is available for you. Please don't put it off.

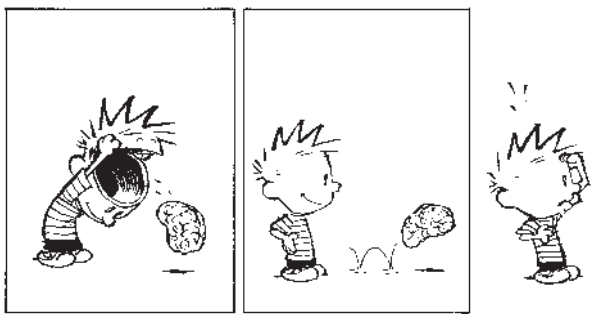
■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

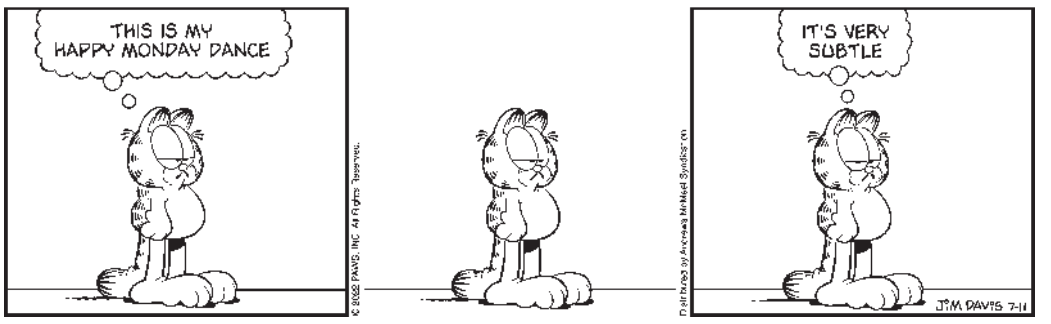
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT'S THE EMERGENCY, ENO?
THERE'S A SPIDER IN THE BATHROOM I NEED YOU TO KILL.
I TRIED SPRAYING HIM WITH HAIRSPRAY BUT THAT DIDN'T WORK.
WHERE IS HE?
HE'S THE ANGRY GUY IN THE CORNER WITH THE TEASED BANGS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pequod captain
5 "Big Blue"
8 Driver with a handle
12 Sci-fi prefix
13 Rep.'s rival
14 Sea predator
15 Be overly sweet
16 The Stars and Stripes
18 A cause of pay inequity
20 Political meeting
21 — butter
23 SUV maker
24 Veterans
28 Snack
31 Museum-funding org.
32 TV, radio, etc.
34 Fib
35 Lummoxes
37 Celtic language
39 Bear hair
41 Architect Saarinen
42 "Alfie" singer Warwick
45 Painter Georges
49 It may be hard to break
51 Sushi fish
52 India's continent
53 High card
54 "Zounds!"
55 Corn seasoning
56 Shrill bark
57 Swift jets

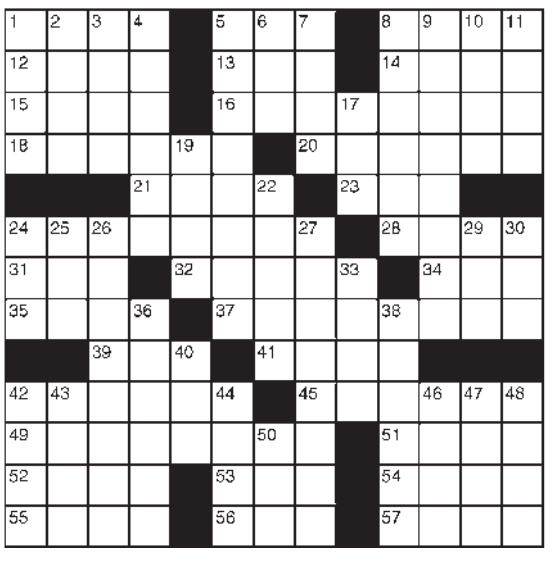
DOWN

1 Curved lines
2 Bagel feature
3 "Life is like — of chocolates"
4 Like Peter Pan
5 Mozart opera
6 — canto
7 Roman 2600
8 Newspaper piece
9 Veggie with florets
10 Beige
11 Sunbeams
17 Joke
19 Counterfeit
22 Confuse
24 Plastic — Band
25 Grazing land
26 Yellow flower
27 Avoid
29 Bro's sib
30 Sly chuckle
33 Suffix for billion
36 Baby's beachwear
38 Courses
40 Genetic letters
42 "— I say!"
43 "Casablanca" role
44 Online auction site
46 Carpets
47 Body sci.
48 Tiny amounts
50 Here, to Henri

Solution time: 26 mins.

L	I	P	■	C	O	B	B	■	H	E	A	R
O	W	E	■	O	T	T	O	■	A	L	T	O
R	O	S	E	B	O	W	L	■	I	M	H	O
E	N	T	■	R	E	■	E	F	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	C	A	S	■	R	A	I	S	E	D
S	I	G	H	S	■	F	O	R	■	W	R	Y
A	B	I	■	■	R	E	S	■	Y	A	L	E
G	I	I	■	B	O	Z	■	F	A	G	E	R
A	D	A	G	E	S	■	B	I	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	H	E	E	■	E	L	I	C	I	T
L	O	G	O	■	A	L	L	E	G	R	O	S
I	B	I	S	■	T	A	L	E	■	A	T	A
T	I	N	■	■	E	D	E	N	■	B	A	R

Last Friday's Answer 07/11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alessia Cara, 26; Lil' Kim, 48; Dina Eastwood, 57; Richie Sambora, 63.

Happy Birthday: Keep your life simple and organized. Be practical, and outdo your nemesis. Put your energy into what matters to you and your relationships. Aim to make your life sustainable, and avoid playing catch-up with your finances and to-do list. Stop dreaming; start doing what's in your best interest. Secure your lifestyle. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 21, 25, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Think big, spend wisely and offer only what's doable. Listen and question suggestions that sound good but have little substance. Do your homework, and don't trust the hype. Take the most sensible path. ✪✪✪✪✪s

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't spend unnecessarily. Take care of matters personally to avoid being disappointed. Display patience and understanding, but don't let others take advantage of you. Set guidelines. Be reluctant to take a back seat to others. Communication is your ally. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll be caught between truth and false hope if you trust an outsider. Discipline will uncover what's possible and give you clarity regarding business and how to navigate your way to the top. An unexpected gesture will take you by surprise. ✪✪✪s

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Draw on the resources you can count on to get things done. Initiate change without going overboard. Look over your options, but don't be fooled by someone's sales pitch. Lean toward partnerships that offer balance, insight and support, not temptation. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take measures to ensure your facts are accurate before you get into a debate or decide to make a move. Work in conjunction with people who have as much to contribute as you. You'll complement one another and accomplish your objective. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll come up with sound ideas that can help you reach your dreams and turn them into reality. Don't hesitate to make a move, invest in yourself or end situations that are holding you back. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't share your thoughts or intentions until you have done the legwork to turn your ideas into reality. Pay attention to self-improvement, not trying to change others. Love and romance are on the rise and will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪s

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be careful how you handle domestic situations. Don't ask others to do something you wouldn't do yourself. You'll find a way to use what you discover to help you advance once you update information regarding something that interests you. ✪✪✪s

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be honest, regardless of the consequences. You will only make matters worse if you give someone the wrong impression. Take care of business by making your position clear. Honesty will alleviate stress and help you get on track. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your energy to good use, and make your space more functional. The changes that transpire will impact you and those you live with. The experience will alter the way you approach life. Happiness begins with you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Concentrate on what you can do to improve your life. Focus on your health, finances and emotional well-being. Start an invigorating daily routine that motivates you to make a difference. Be a leader, not a follower. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Use your imagination to come up with a plan that helps you and others. Be careful when dealing with emotional matters that influence your ability to get things done. Avoid a run-in with someone in a powerful position. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are possessive, quick-witted and spontaneous. You are protective and outgoing.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5					7		1	9
3			6		1			
		1		8	9	7		
4	7	6					3	
		3		2		5		
	8					4	9	7
		9	4	3		2		
			5		2			1
7	6		9					5

Difficulty Level ★ 7/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	4	8	7	5	6	9	2	3
2	9	5	8	1	3	6	4	7
3	7	6	2	4	9	1	5	8
7	5	1	3	6	2	4	8	9
9	6	3	4	8	5	7	1	2
4	8	2	1	9	7	3	6	5
8	3	9	6	2	4	5	7	1
6	2	7	5	3	1	8	9	4
5	1	4	9	7	8	2	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

YOUR ODDS ARE GOOD Solution: 6 letters

N	L	A	T	O	T	G	R	A	D	E	K	A	T	S
O	O	E	T	E	K	C	I	T	I	F	O	R	P	U
I	T	I	A	W	D	E	G	A	R	E	V	A	T	N
T	T	M	T	G	I	A	G	T	S	I	L	A	R	S
A	E	R	R	I	U	N	R	A	C	E	R	A	O	H
C	R	E	E	E	T	E	S	T	N	E	T	S	P	I
I	Y	M	B	K	E	E	O	M	H	I	S	S	S	N
L	M	A	R	G	O	R	P	T	O	E	P	T	S	E
P	E	G	A	F	Y	P	A	M	H	M	B	S	B	L
P	R	S	C	E	A	E	S	C	O	L	E	E	O	L
A	U	R	K	C	W	T	Y	N	I	C	E	T	J	O
G	T	C	E	I	U	A	E	K	C	S	A	L	E	O
O	U	O	T	D	L	Y	E	U	S	C	O	R	E	H
L	F	I	Y	P	R	L	S	E	C	U	R	E	D	C
F	K	N	A	R	Y	O	U	T	C	O	M	E	S	S

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Application, Average, Bracket, Cards, Career, Chess, Coin, Competition, Dice, Fate, Future, Game, Golf, Grade, Jobs, League, Likely, List, Lottery, Money, Order, Outcomes, Play, Poker, Profit, Program, Race, Rank, Ratio, Sale, School, Score, Secure, Skill, Spin, Sport, Stake, Study, Success, Sunshine, Team, Tests, Ticket, Total, Trade, Twins, Victory, Weather

Last Friday's Answer: Nanny

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Verdugo twice rallies Red Sox for 6-5 win over Yankees

BOSTON (AP)—Alex Verdugo hit a tying single in the eighth inning and a winning two-run single that capped a three-run 10th, lifting Boston over New York.

Aaron Judge and Anthony Rizzo gave the Yankees a 5-3 lead with RBI doubles in the 10th off Jake Diekman.

Jeter Downs hit a run-scoring single in the bottom half off Wandy Peralta (2-2) for his first major league hit.

Third baseman Josh Donaldson bobbled Xander Bogaerts' potential game-ending, double-play grounder on the transfer, getting only one out at first. With runners on second and third and two outs, Verdugo lined a single to right that scored Rob Refsnyder and Downs, who scored ahead of Joey Gallo's throw.

Former Yankee Rob Refsnyder added a solo homer for the Red Sox, who stopped a four-game losing streak and improved to just 10-20 against AL East rivals

Aaron Hicks hit a solo homer and Rizzo, returning after missing four games with a bad back, had a pair of RBI doubles.

AP

Boston Red Sox's J.D. Martinez (28), Xander Bogaerts (2) and teammates celebrate after Alex Verdugo, center left, hit a two-run single during the 10th inning to give the Red Sox a 6-5 win in a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Saturday, July 9, 2022, in Boston.

Orioles 1, Angels 0

In Baltimore, Dean Kremer combined with four relievers on a five-hitter, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Los Angeles Angels 1-0 Saturday for their first seven-game winning streak in five years.

Angels manager Phil Nevin and son, Tyler Nevin, an Orioles rookie infielder, met for the first time as major leaguers and exchanged lineup cards before the game. After a photo with the umpires, they went their separate ways — just like their teams.

Phil Nevin returned following a 10-game suspension. Tyler went 1 for 2 with a walk.

Baltimore is on its longest winning streak since seven in a row from Aug. 7-13, 2017. Los Angeles dropped to 1-7 on a nine-game trip and at 38-48 is a season-worst 10 games under .500.

Dodgers 4, Cubs 2

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw worked 7 2/3 strong innings of five-hit ball, and Freddie Freeman delivered the tiebreaking two-run single in the seventh inning of Los Angeles' sixth straight victory.

Kershaw (6-2) yielded one earned run, struck out 10 and didn't walk a batter while pitching into the eighth inning for the first time this season.

Kershaw trailed 2-1 in the seventh before Jake Lamb hit a tying homer for the Dodgers. Freeman then delivered his two-out single to right off Rowan Wick (1-5), capping an impressive rally. Will Smith had a tying RBI single in the sixth for the NL-leading Dodgers, who have won 10 of 11. Craig Kimbrel pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

Giants 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, Carlos Rodon retired 22 of the final 23 batters to finish a three-hitter for his third career complete game and Wilmer Flores hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning in San Francisco's win over San Diego.

Rodon (8-5) allowed his only run in the second inning. He got Kim Ha-seong to ground into a double play to end the second, and then was one out away from throwing seven perfect innings to end it before he walked Luke Voit. The left-hander struck out Jorge Alfaro to end his brilliant afternoon.

Phillies 1, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Kyle Gibson kept the ball in the park this time against St. Louis and Alec Bohm broke a scoreless tie with a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning as Philadelphia won its third straight and fifth in six games.

Gibson, tagged for four straight home runs by St. Louis in the first inning at Citizens Bank Park in his previous start, combined with a pair of relievers on a two-hitter. He gave up two hits and walked none in seven innings.

Darick Hall led off the Phillies ninth with a double against Giovanny Gallegos (2-3). Pinch-runner Mickey Moniak became the first runner of the game to reach third base on Didi Gregorius' bunt single and Bohm followed with his go-ahead fly.

Mets 5, Marlins 4, 10 innings

In New York, Tomas Nido hit a tying double with two outs in the 10th inning and scored the winning run on a throwing error by reliever Tanner Scott, and New York rallied to beat Miami after honoring Keith Hernandez.

Pete Alonso homered and Francisco Lindor lined a two-run shot for the NL East leaders, who overcame injuries to right fielder Starling Marte and catcher James McCann in the middle innings. Both exited the game and are headed for MRIs on Sunday.

After a pregame ceremony to retire No. 17 in honor of Hernandez, the Mets got their fourth walk-off win and improved to 7-0 in extra innings.

Jesus Aguilar hit a tying homer in the eighth inning for Miami, and pinch-runner Billy Hamilton scored on Lindor's throwing error at shortstop in the 10th to give the Marlins a 4-3 lead.

Braves 4, Nationals 3

In Atlanta, Austin Riley homered off Patrick Corbin, Kyle Wright pitched seven-plus innings to win his 10th game, and Atlanta held on to beat Washington.

The Braves moving a season-high 16 games over .500, improved to 28-8 since June 1, best in the NL over that span. Atlanta leads the NL with 132 homers, trailing only the New York Yankees for the major league lead.

Ronald Acuna Jr. singled before Riley hit his 22nd homer, a two-run shot to left in the first.

Juan Soto connected for the 17th time and second straight day, and Yadiel Hernandez hit his sixth homer.

White Sox 8, Tigers 0

In Chicago, Johnny Cueto allowed five hits over eight innings, Gavin Sheets hit a three-run homer and Chicago ended Detroit's season-high six-game winning streak.

Cueto (3-4) and Jose Ruiz combined on a six-hitter in the 11th shutout against the Tigers this season. Cueto struck out five and walked none.

Kody Clemens, a son of Roger Clemens who usually plays left and the infield, threw a 1-2-3 eighth for Detroit in his second big league pitching appearance.

Jose Abreu, Tim Anderson and Sheets each had a pair of hits for the White Sox, who have won two of their last six.

Mariners 2, Blue Jays 1

In Seattle, Carlos Santana hit his first home run since being acquired by Seattle, lining a two-run shot off Toronto starter Alek Manoah that lifted the Mariners to their seventh straight win.

Santana's homer came in the seventh inning after Seattle had managed just one hit off Manoah through the first six. J.P. Crawford led off the seventh with a single and Santana hit his fifth homer of the season.

Santana was acquired in late June from Kansas City for a pair of pitchers.

Reds 5, Rays 4, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Kyle Farmer scored the tying run on a wild pitch and Nick Senzel hit a game-ending single as Cincinnati rallied in the 10th inning for fourth walk-off victory in eight games.

Farmer started the Reds 10th on second base as the automatic runner. He took third on Matt Reynolds' single and Calvin Faucher (1-3) threw a wild pitch that made it 4-all. After Donovan Solano singled, Senzel won it.

Harold Ramirez drove in Josh Lowe with a 10th-inning double off Jeff Hoffman (2-0) for a 4-3 lead.

Rangers 9, Twins 7

In Arlington, Texas, Marcus Semien hit a tie-breaking RBI triple in the eighth inning after earlier being part of back-to-back homers with fellow off-season pickup Corey Seager for the first time, and Texas beat AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Semien's three-run homer in the fourth tied the game at 6, and Seager followed with a go-ahead shot that chased Twins starter Devin Smeltzer. That was two innings after a three-run homer by Kole Calhoun, another offseason addition for the Rangers.

Rookie first baseman Jose Miranda and Gary Sanchez homered for the Twins, whose three-game losing streak matches their longest this year.

Minnesota tied the game at 7 on Gilberto Celestino's RBI groundout in the eighth.

Matt Moore (4-2) retired the only batter he faced for the win and Brett Martin earned his second career save. Jhoan Duran (0-3) took the loss.

Athletics 3, Astros 2

In Oakland, Calif., Oakland rookie Zach Logue pitched five innings of three-hit ball after being recalled from Triple-A and dealt Houston its second loss in 12 games.

Logue allowed two runs and set down his final 10 batters after Martin Maldonado's second-inning sacrifice fly. Lou Trivino worked the ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

Oakland's batting average dropped to .209, on track to break the major league low of .211 set by the dead-ball era 1910 Chicago White Sox. The A's got three singles and a double off Framber Valdez.

Sean Murphy had two hits, helping Oakland to its first win in five tries this season against AL West-leading Houston. Oakland finished with just four hits.

Valdez (8-4) went the distance and allowed three runs, two earned, and worked around two walks. Aledmys Diaz doubled and scored for the Astros.

Guardians 13, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Jose Ramirez hit his first home run in nearly a month, rookie Nolan Jones connected for the first homer of his career and Cleveland stopped a five-game skid.

The Guardians totaled a season-high 23 hits and led 11-0 after four innings. Amed Rosario homered off Royals center fielder Michael Taylor in a two-run ninth.

Triston McKenzie (6-6) tossed six scoreless innings of three-hit ball with four strikeouts and five walks.

Steven Kwan and Andres Gimenez each drove in two runs and Franmil Reyes had an RBI for the fifth straight game, the longest stretch of his career.

Jonathan Heasley (1-5) gave up six runs and six hits in a career-low 1 1/3 innings.

Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 2

In Phoenix, Madison Bumgarner pitched six effective innings and Josh Rojas had three RBIs in Arizona's win over Colorado.

Bumgarner (5-8) gave up Kris Bryant's third homer in two games in the first inning and was sharp after that. He allowed two runs on six hits and struck out five to pass Catfish Hunter (84th) and Dan Haren (83rd) on baseball's all-time strikeout list with 2,014.

Jordan Luplow had a run-scoring single in Arizona's three-run first inning against Kyle Freeland (4-7) and hit a solo homer in the fifth. Rojas had a two-run double in the seventh inning and a run-scoring double in the eighth to finish with three of Arizona's 12 hits. Geraldo Perdomo added a two-run single.

Freeland allowed six runs on seven hits.

Pirates 4, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Ben Gamel hit a two-run homer to cap a four-run seventh inning and Pittsburgh rallied to beat Milwaukee.

Pittsburgh was held to one hit through six innings by Brewers starter Brandon Woodruff before erasing a three-run deficit in the seventh.

Yoshi Tsutsugo and Kevin Newman opened with singles. Oneil Cruz sliced an RBI double to left, making it 3-1 and chasing Woodruff. Brad Boxberger (3-2) came on. Newman scored from third on a fly out to left when the throw in got away from Boxberger. Gamel then drove his fourth homer to put Pittsburgh ahead.

Woodruff retired the first 13 hitters before Tsutsugo's double to right-center in the fifth. He allowed four hits with three earned runs, with three walks and nine strikeouts.

Lillard signs extension, looks forward to re-tooled Blazers

AP

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, drives past Dallas Mavericks center Dwight Powell during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Dec. 27, 2021. Lillard's new contract with the Trail Blazers is a point of pride for the six-time All Star who has spent his entire career in Portland.

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

Damian Lillard's new contract with the Trail Blazers is a point of pride for the six-time All Star who has spent his entire career in Portland.

"I don't think that you earn something like this just by going out there and scoring a bunch of points," he said. "Something that's missing in our league is character, and the fight and the passion and pride about, you know, not just the name on the back, but the name on the front, and how you impact the people that you come in contact with."

Lillard agreed to a two-year extension through the 2026-27 season. A person with knowledge of the negotiations said the deal is worth $225 million.

Lillard formally signed the extension with his son on his lap and his grandmother watching by phone from Oakland. He spoke at a news conference Saturday evening at the NBA's summer league in Las Vegas.

Lillard will make about $59 million in 2025-26, then about $63 million the next year, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Friday because the extension has not been announced.

He'll make about $137 million over the next three seasons, before the extension begins.

"There are two kinds of teams: teams that are looking for superstars and teams that are looking for one. We're lucky enough to have one," Blazers coach Chauncey Billups said. "One who wants to be here."

Lillard was limited to 29 games this past season because of a core injury that required surgery. The Blazers finished 27-55, their worst record since 2005-06.

While Lillard was sidelined, the team cleaned house, pulling off a number of trades before the February deadline — including sending backcourt teammate CJ McCollum to New Orleans — that got the Blazers under the luxury tax and freed up cap space.

The Blazers then made a series of offseason moves to build around Lillard. Portland acquired Jerami Grant from the Detroit Pistons and signed free agent Gary Payton II, who was key to Golden State's championship run.

Lillard played with Grant on the gold medal-winning U.S. team at last year's Tokyo Olympics. Grant averaged 19.2 points in 47 games last season with the Pistons.

Lillard said he believes the team is headed in the right direction.

"I'm as anxious as I've ever been to get out there and make something happen," he said. "I'm in a great space mentally and physically. I'm gonna come into this season comfortable and ready to do me, and do me at the highest level."

Lillard, who turns 32 on July 15, said that in addition to healing his body over the past several months, he also got a mental break that he believes will make his a better player going forward.

"In my entire career, I haven't been injured. I've had one injury that put me out, and that was when I was in college and I broke my foot. And that was the last time that I got to step away," he said. "I didn't recreate myself, I just charged back up and I came back and I was better than I had ever been."

He has averaged 24.6 points in his career. He was selected as a member of the league's top 75 players as part of the NBA's 75th anniversary celebration this past season.

Oladipo returns to Heat, aiming toward return to past form

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Victor Oladipo went into free agency with his eyes open, determined to find what would be the best place for him.

Turns out, he was already there.

Oladipo signed his new contract with the Miami Heat on Thursday, a two-year deal with the second of those years at his option. Injuries and recovery have limited him to 12 regular-season appearances out of a possible 110 in his first season-and-a-half with the franchise, and both he and the Heat are banking on him being able to handle much more this coming year.

"I think the biggest goal for me is to show everyone that I'm healthy, and I can play a whole year — and also to show everyone that I'm one of the best players in the league," Oladipo said. "So, everything else will take care of itself. And that's what I'm focused on."

Oladipo appeared in just eight regular-season games this past season while recovering from a second surgery to repair his right quadriceps tendon. He was a two-time All-Star with Indiana before getting hurt in January 2019. He returned a year later, wasn't anywhere near the same player and Indiana traded him to Houston in January 2021. The Rockets didn't keep him long before moving him to Miami, with whom Oladipo played four games in March 2021 before getting hurt again.

It took him most of last season to come back. He got into 15 playoff games for Miami this spring, playing much more in the postseason than he did in the regular season. Then came free agency, and Oladipo looked around and quickly decided Miami was his best choice.

"It was just the best deal for me, I feel like, and it kind of seemed like a lot of people were kind of shying away from me," Oladipo said. "So, I think that coming back here and playing with the Heat was the best option for me. Now, I'm looking forward to running it back. I felt like we had a very good, strong opportunity to make it to the finals last year. That's the goal this year."

Since initially getting hurt in January 2019, Oladipo has been limited to 60 regular-season games. But the Heat entered the offseason convinced that Oladipo — a past All-NBA player, All-Defensive team player and even a Most Improved Player award winner — only needs time to regain his form.

"He hasn't had a summer like this and probably four summers," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said when the season ended. "Yeah, you're going to see a totally different Vic next year by the time he gets to training camp. He's going into the summer physically able to work at his craft and he'll get back to the player that people were accustomed to seeing."

Man sentenced on lesser charges in former NBA player's slaying

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)— A Tennessee man serving life in prison after his first-degree murder conviction in the slaying of former NBA player Lorenzen Wright was sentenced Friday on lesser charges of conspiracy and attempted murder in the 12-year-old case.

Shelby County Judge Lee Coffee sentenced Billy Ray Turner to 25 years in prison for both the conspiracy charge and the attempted murder charge. Turner was convicted March 21 in the fatal shooting of Wright, a 6-foot, 11-inch center who played 13 seasons in the NBA before he retired after the 2008-2009 season.

Coffee sentenced Turner, 51, to life in prison on the day of his conviction. Turner already was serving a 16-year sentence for possessing a weapon as a convicted felon. Turner was found with two guns when he was arrested in 2017 in Wright's killing and he pleaded guilty in 2019.

The judge decided that the 25-year-sentences will run concurrently, or at the same time. When added to the 16-year sentence for the gun charge, Turner essentially has been sentenced to life plus 41 years in prison, with the possibility of parole, Coffee said.

The slaying is one of the most highly publicized murder cases in Memphis history. Wright's decomposing body was found riddled with bullet wounds in a swampy field in east Memphis on July 28, 2010. The 34-year-old father of six had been missing for days before his body was discovered.

During Turner's trial, prosecutors said Wright's ex-wife, Sherra Wright, masterminded a plan to kill her ex-husband and recruited Turner and her cousin, Jimmie Martin, to help her.

Turner and Sherra Wright were indicted in December 2017, more than seven years after the killing. Sherra Wright entered a surprise guilty plea to facilitation of murder in July 2019 and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Turner is a landscaper who knew Sherra Wright from church and, according to prosecutors, had a secret romantic relationship with her.

At the time of Wright's slaying, Martin was facing charges of killing his girlfriend, and he said his cousin helped pay part of his legal fees. Martin was convicted and is currently serving prison time in that case.

Martin received immunity from prosecution in the Wright case. He testified that he went with Turner to kill Wright in Atlanta in a failed murder attempt. Martin also testified that he went with Turner to a Mississippi lake to dump the gun used in the killing.

A Memphis native, Lorenzen Wright played college basketball at the University of Memphis and spent time with the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies. At the end of the trial, Coffee called Wright "a sacred son" of Memphis.

During Friday's hearing, the judge cited Turner's past convictions for kidnapping, gun and drug charges as he added years to the life sentence.

"He is a dangerous offender," Coffee said. "He had no hesitation committing this crime."

Djokovic moves into 8th Wimbledon final; will face Kyrgios

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—This deficit was less daunting for Novak Djokovic. The tension less palpable. It's not that he wants to fall behind in matches, of course. It's that when he does, he knows how to deal with it.

"It's amazing how the whole game can fall apart, really, just because you feel you're tense. Then no shots are really working properly. Your feet are static and slow," Djokovic said. "Something happens in a match, then all of a sudden it's completely different and you're flying. Everything flows."

The top-seeded Djokovic fashioned a second consecutive comeback victory at Wimbledon on Friday, beating No. 9 seed Cam Norrie of Britain 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals to run his winning streak at the All England Club to 27 matches in a row as he pursues a fourth straight championship on its grass courts.

"The more you experience these kind of situations, not the better you feel, but just more prepared you feel. You know what to expect," Djokovic said. "It's always really about handling your own nerves better than maybe your opponent is his own. This internal battle is always the greatest."

He will face first-time major finalist Nick Kyrgios for the trophy on Sunday.

"The job," Djokovic said, "is not finished."

The unseeded Kyrgios, a combustible 27-year-old from Australia who drew jeers for the mere mention of his name during Djokovic's on-court interview, did not need to play on Friday because 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal withdrew with a torn abdominal muscle.

"Mouth-watering," is how Kyrgios described the upcoming matchup.

He has won both previous meetings against Djokovic, although both were on hard courts five years ago.

"One thing is for sure," Djokovic said. "There's going to be a lot of fireworks, emotionally, from both."

It will be the 32nd Grand Slam title match for Djokovic, breaking a tie for the men's record he shared with Roger Federer, and gives the 35-year-old from Serbia a shot at a 21st major title and seventh at Wimbledon. Only Federer, with eight, owns more at the grass-court tournament among men.

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after beating Britain's Cameron Norrie in a men's singles semifinal on day twelve of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Friday, July 8, 2022.

On the steamiest afternoon of the fortnight, with the temperature at 85 degrees Fahrenheit (29 degrees Celsius) and the air still, Djokovic often looked displeased early, gesticulating toward his guest box. But unlike in the quarterfinals, when he dropped the opening two sets against Jannik Sinner before winning in five, it took little time for Djokovic to assert his dominance.

Exactly what allows Djokovic to trail, then win — he has seven career comebacks from a two-set hole, including in the 2021 French Open final — is hard to know. He claimed a talking-to in the bathroom helped against Sinner. He joked that donning a white hat after the first set made a difference against Norrie.

Asked at Friday's news conference to explain the white bottle he appeared to inhale from during another match, Djokovic offered this tongue-in-cheek reply: "Magic potion."

"You'll find out soon," he added, "but I can't speak about it now."

Djokovic vs. Norrie began auspiciously enough for locals hoping to see one of their own get to a men's final, something only two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray has accomplished for Britain since the professional era began in 1968.

Roars came when the left-handed Norrie arose first from his seat; Djokovic was pouring some water on his hand and rubbing it in his hair. When Norrie's volley winner completed a break in that initial game, he hopped and threw an uppercut. Union Jack flags waved in the stands.

Was the championship won? No. A berth in the final earned? Not that, either. All in all, it was quite a celebration after one of what would become 35 games, five of 202 points, four of 154 minutes.

ATHLETES

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was obviously met by rounds of applause and cheers.

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan then gave a heart-felt speech which reciprocated Torres' and after everyone at the banquet filled their bellies, it was time to fill up their pockets.

NMSA called up Torres, first lady Diann Torres, NMSA board members Tan, Nick Gross, Valerie Hofschneider, and James Lee to congratulate and hand out the envelopes filled with the athletes' incentives.

Two weeks prior to the start of the Mini Games, Torres announced the incentives for each medalist— $5,000 plus $1,000 from his office for gold medalists, $2,500 for silver medalists, and $1,000 for bronze medalists.

In the banquet, each athlete of all nine sports from baseball, badminton, golf, *va'a*, beach volleyball, weightlifting, athletics, tennis, and triathlon were called up to receive their incentives of $6,000 for gold medalists, $3,500 for silver medalists, and $2,000 for bronze medalists, as the $1,000 bonus was extended to all medalists. Every name called out for each sport was greeted with cheers from the proud athletes and coaches in attendance.

On top of that, CNMI teams and athletes who reached the semifinals received $750 each. Athletes who did not place were not forgotten as they were given $500 each.

Coaches and team managers for all nine sports of the Mini Games received $3,000 each. For the Pacific Mini Games athletes and coaches, a total of $449,000 was given out.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the funds for incentives were allocated from $4 million of the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, after it was given a green light by the U.S. Treasury that doing sports tourism in the Pacific Games is an allowable cost.

During the distribution of incentives for the baseball team, an additional award in the form of a golden bat and a free night's stay at Kensington Resort was given to Frank Nakamura for hitting the only home run of the baseball competition between Guam, Fiji, Palau, and the Solomon Islands.

Following the distribution of incentives, 15-year-old NMI junior golfer and women's gold medalist, Zhimin Jin, was announced as the "Best Junior Female Athlete" of the Games and received a trophy.

"Congratulations again for waving the CNMI flag," remarked Torres after each athlete received their well-deserved incentive.

The emotional night was capped by speeches from Team NMI chef de mission, Bob Coldeen, and 2021 CNMI athlete of the year, Jason Tarkong.

A total of $50,450 were also distributed to the CNMI national men's and women's basketball team to the FIBA Micronesian Cup, swimmers who competed in the 2022 FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, and track and field athletes who saw action in the Oceania Area Championships in Mackay, Australia.

REX

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because she wanted to support Northern Marianas Athletics, Run Saipan, and the offices of Reps. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) and Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) as well as have fun.

"I liked the route, it's very much different from our usual races on the road so it's a good change of scenery and surface. It's hilly too so that was a good challenge."

A total of 91 runners took part in the Inaugural Kulot Acha'Ikak 5K.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. thanked Staffler and Lizama for holding a beautiful Precinct 5-featured 5K.

"Thank you so much for adding a new premier race on Saipan's race calendar. Thank you to everyone who came out this morning and took part in Rep. Staffler's summer program event on health and wellness!"

He also thanked NMA for supporting and sanctioning the race, the Department of Public Lands for fixing the road right before the event, the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Saipan International School, NMI TECH, and the Marianas High School and Kagman High School JROTC battalions for their support.

TEAM

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ish in the medal tally of the Mini Games (38 medals, 16 gold, 13 silver, 9 bronze), Tan also acknowledged the Mini Games Organizing committee led by chair Marco Peter and CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta for delivering a near-perfect Games.

"I don't think we delivered a perfect Games…[but] I think we came as close as possible in hosting the [perfect] Mini Games…Some of us had the chance to actually talk to people during the Games and all I can share with you is by the end of the Games I kept hearing best 'Games ever, best Games ever,'" added Tan.

The NMSA president said the icing on the cake in Team NMI's performance in the Games is that they medalled in all nine sports offered in the quadrennial event with the badminton team grabbing its medal in the final day of competition.

"Their final was actually on the closing ceremony morning and they had a chance to bronze against powerhouse Tahiti. So when they won and got the medal in badminton, that made us the perfect host because we medalled in all nine sports."

Sports facilities

Tan also said NMSA is committed to provide every sport a good facility to play and train in, pointing out that weightlifting deserves a facility of its own after leading Team NMI in medals won during the Games.

"With their result, they have every right to talk to NMSA. Yeah, they already gave me a little bit of requirements or requests for what they want… with those results coming from weightlifting they deserve it."

Tan also gave kudos to Torres not only for his all-out support for the Mini Games but also sports in general.

"We would like to again acknowledge and thank the governor for No. 1, your big support for the Mini Games; and No. 2, your big support for the future of sports."

Tan also gave one final salute to all the athletes—Mini Games, Oceania Athletics Championships in Australia, FIBA Micro Cup in Guam, and 2022 FINA World Championships in Hungary—in attendance during the Team NMI Celebration Dinner.

"I'd like to, again, congratulate every one of you, all of you are winners. You guys really, really make the CNMI proud and the whole community's behind you!"

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	61	24	.718	_
Boston	46	39	.541	15
Tampa Bay	45	39	.536	15½
Toronto	45	41	.523	16½
Baltimore	42	44	.488	19½

Central Division

Minnesota	47	40	.540	_
Cleveland	41	41	.500	3½
Chicago	40	43	.482	5
Detroit	36	48	.429	9½
Kansas City	31	52	.373	14

West Division

Houston	55	29	.655	_
Seattle	44	42	.512	12
Texas	39	43	.476	15
Los Angeles	38	48	.442	18
Oakland	29	57	.337	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	53	32	.624	_
Atlanta	51	35	.593	2½
Philadelphia	46	39	.541	7
Miami	40	43	.482	12
Washington	30	57	.345	24

Central Division

Milwaukee	48	38	.558	_
St. Louis	45	42	.517	3½
Pittsburgh	35	50	.412	12½
Chicago	34	51	.400	13½
Cincinnati	31	54	.365	16½

West Division

Los Angeles	55	29	.655	_
San Diego	49	37	.570	7
San Francisco	42	41	.506	12½
Arizona	38	47	.447	17½
Colorado	37	48	.435	18½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Verdugo twice rallies Red Sox for 6-5 win over Yankees

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Sports

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Athletes get over $500K in incentives

LEIGH GASES

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, middle, is seen handing out an envelope of the athletes' incentives to badminton's Janelle Pangilinan during the Team NMI Celebration Dinner last Thursday at Kensington Resort.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres distributed over $500,000 in incentives to athletes who represented the CNMI not only in the just concluded Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, but three other sporting events this year during a banquet honoring Team NMI athletes last Thursday at Kensington Resort.

Prior to handing out the incentives during the Team NMI Celebration Dinner, Torres said "it's such an emotional evening…Everyone's having a good time. Congratulations to all of you. It's a great honor to be here… All of you really make the NMI proud."

He then congratulated the CNMI National Baseball Team for winning the opening of the Mini Games and for closing it with the gold, which was of course greeted with cheers from the already hyped baseball players.

To all the athletes he said, "to all of you, look around your table. You guys are who we have the best of who represents CNMI. Congratulations. We love you."

To the delight of the athletes and coaches, Torres announced that the CNMI will be chartering a flight to the Solomon Islands for the Pacific Games next year, which

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Team NMI to send large delegation to 2023 Honiara Pacific Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Sports Association has vowed to send a large delegation to the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands next year.

Speaking during last Thursday's Team NMI Celebration Dinner at Kensington Resort, NMSA president Jerry Tan said with the help of the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres they are looking at chartering a flight to send 150-200 athletes to the 2023 Pacific Games.

In his budget request to the House of Representatives last week, Torres allocated $400,000 to NMSA to support athletes who will participate in the 2023 Pacific Games and the Micronesian Games.

During the Pacific Games Council meeting last June 19, Tan said the CNMI committed to send a larger delegation to Honiara after organizers initially put down 30 as the expected athletes from the CNMI going to the quadrennial event.

"Your performance [in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022] validates that we can compete," he said.

Tan also eyes sending a large delegation to the 2023 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands next year. However, he acknowledged that the 2023 Micronesian Games host's borders are still closed.

"So we have two important Games next year and we plan to send large delegations to both Games."

'Best Games ever'

Not only did he congratulate Team NMI's third place fin-

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Rex, Tania top Kulot Acha'Ikak 5K

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

National runners Rex Pixley and Tania Tan overcame the muddy and hilly terrain to win the Inaugural Kulot Acha'Ikak 5K last Saturday at LauLau Bay.

Pixley paced the men's division from start to finish and crossed the finish line in 19:44.

Another national runner, Sildrey Veloria, came in second in 21:21, while Tahiti national tennis player Heimanarii Lao San completed the Top 3 with a time of 21:16.

Pixley said despite the mud and hills, he had a great time running the Inaugural Kulot Acha'Ikak 5K.

"It was good. The course was tough but I really pushed it. The terrain was OK but what made it tough were the hills and the mud. I enjoyed the colored powder for the most part. Got hit in the face a couple of times. But it's alright," said the 16-year-old from Saipan International School.

Tan, for her part, dominated the women's race after completing the course from the bottom of the San Vicente Laulau Bay entrance to the Laulau Beach dive site and back in 21:14.

Fellow national runner Tiana Cabrera finished second in 24:56, while Rosemarie Fontanilla Chisato was third in 25:0.1

Tan said she joined the race

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MARK RABAGO

Some of the 91 participants of the Inaugural Kulot Acha'Ikak 5K pose for a group photo last Saturday at LauLau Bay. Left, men's division winner Rex Pixley. Far left, women's division winner Tania Tan.